

Hurd plan for local TV by early 1990s

Microwave technology in broadcast revolution

- New technology is set to provide British homes with same range of television channels enjoyed in the US
- Microwave receivers produced by Marconi will sell for only £50 each; transmitters will start at £30,000
- Government approval for local channels will be announced next month in the broadcasting White Paper
- Dishes set up to receive satellite transmissions will also pick up signals from local microwave stations

By Richard Evans, Media Editor

Dozens of cities and towns in Britain will be allowed to have their own multi-channel local television stations by the early 1990s, the Government will announce next month.

The Cabinet has decided to support technological advances that could produce a local television network similar to that achieved over the past two decades by radio.

Multipoint Video Distribution Systems (MVDS) — also known as Multipoint Microwave Distribution Systems (MMDS) — is a technology using microwave frequencies to broadcast a number of channels from a local transmitter to aerials on individual buildings.

Because of the high frequencies used, the broadcast-

straight away — and use the income to cable-laying later.

Mr Hurd and his Cabinet colleagues are understood to favour extending the use of MVDS beyond helping cable operators. The Home Secretary believes that if an entrepreneur wants to use the technology to set up a local television station in his area, he should be free to do so.

Microwave technology...

ing and receiving aerials must be in direct line of sight, restricting the effectiveness of the system to relatively small areas. It has a maximum range of about 30 miles.

In the United States, extra television services have been provided using low-frequency multipoint distribution services for some time, usually transmitting specialist programmes financed by subscription.

The Irish government is about to launch MVDS on the basis of 30 franchises, and British backing for the new technology will be included in the broadcasting White Paper that Mr Douglas Hurd, the Home Secretary, hopes to publish at the end of October.

After two years of debate, the Whitehall blueprint aimed at establishing the structure and regulation of broadcasting for the twenty-first century has finally been completed. Mr Hurd read a copy of the White Paper prepared by Home Office officials after returning from his holiday and is understood to be pleased with the outcome.

Until now, MVDS has been seen as a way of assisting Britain's fledgling cable industry, where lack of finance has delayed expensive cable-laying to the homes of potential subscribers. The microwave technology would enable a cable operator to start beaming programmes to viewers

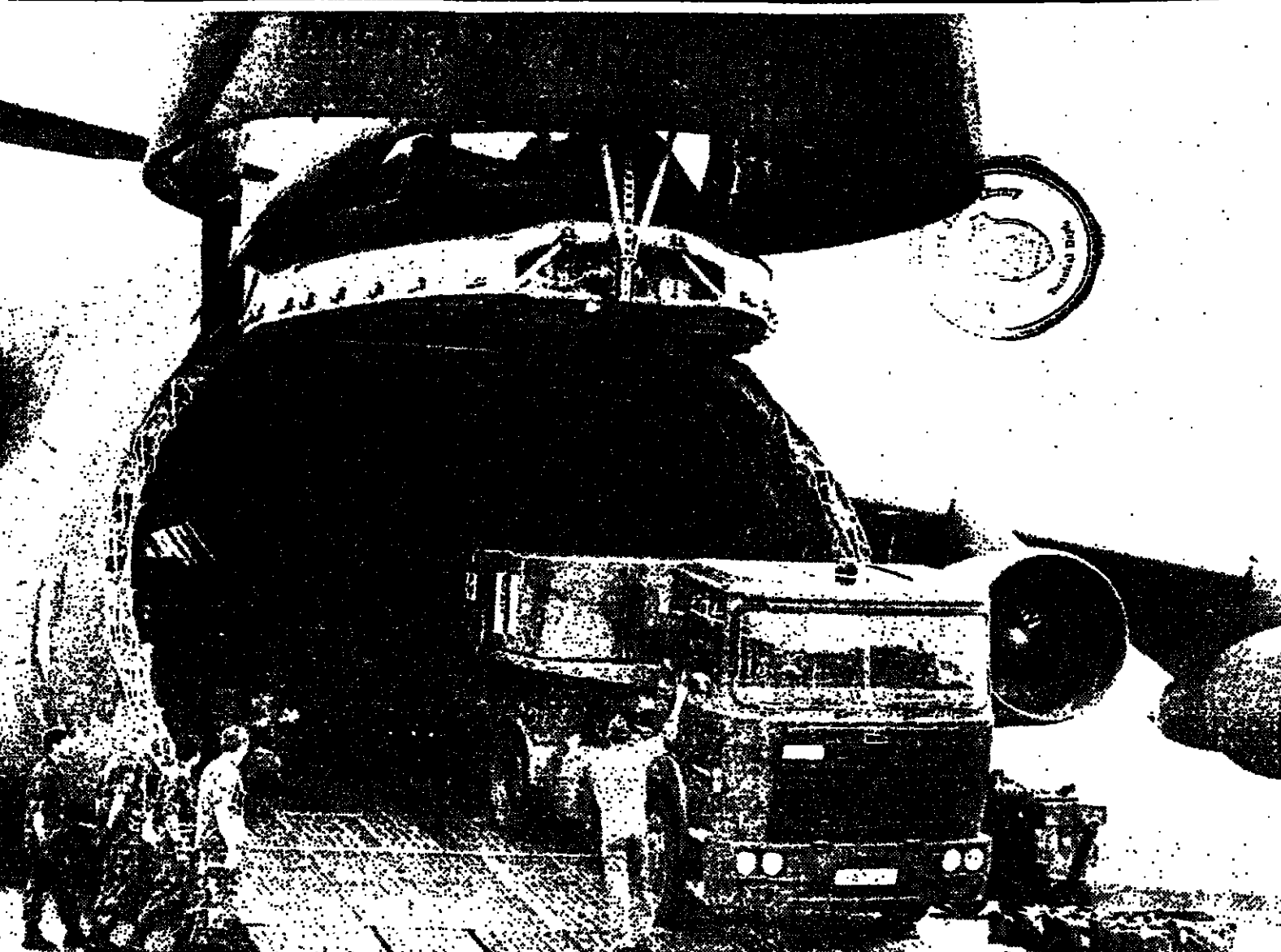
The Government's decision, however, is likely to disappoint both the Cable Authority and the Cable Television Association, which have warned officials of the dangers of having separate MVDS and cable networks.

The Home Office and Department of Trade and Industry jointly commissioned Touche Ross to examine MVDS. The survey, plus evidence from the Independent Broadcasting Authority favouring the creation of local television stations, appears to have swayed ministers against the cable lobby.

In a report on the future of broadcasting published in July, the Commons home affairs select committee concluded, significantly, that it was "essential" not to use MVDS as a "stop-gap" measure just to assist cable.

"To allow cable operators to use MVDS frequencies for an unlimited time would be a waste of a part of the broadcasting spectrum which could perhaps be put to better use. Whatever the exact character of its programming, the best way forward for MVDS would be one which maximized its technological and social benefits", the MPs said.

Britain says farewell to first US cruise missiles



The INF Treaty in action: A low-loader, reversing into the cavernous nose of a giant US transporter aircraft at RAF Alconbury yesterday, is taking the first consignment of cruise missiles from Britain for break-up in Arizona under the new treaty. Flight to oblivion, page 24. (Photograph: Harry Kerr)

Gibraltar shooting of IRA man was 'like a frenzied attack'

From Tony Dawe, Gibraltar

The killing of Sean Savage, one of the three IRA terrorists shot by the SAS in Gibraltar, was "like a frenzied attack", a pathologist told the inquest into their deaths yesterday.

Professor Alan Watson, who was called in by the Gibraltar police to examine the bodies, said Savage was shot at least 16 and possibly 18 times. Some bullets hit him when he was on the ground.

He said Mairead Farrell and Daniel McCann, the other members of the gang which was on a car bombing mission, died from shots in the back.

Professor Watson gave his assessment when asked for a layman's guide to how the three had died by Mr Patrick McGrory representing the ter-

rorists' families, some of whom were in court.

Professor Watson agreed with Mr McGrory that the effects of the first shots would have been so stunning that the people who fired them could have pounced on the terrorists before shooting again.

But, cross-examined by Mr Michael Hucker, for the SAS

Inquest evidence...

soldiers, he said that the terrorists might not have died instantly and may have had time to press a button — a reference to the security services' belief that the terrorists planned to detonate a bomb by remote control.

Professor Watson, from Glasgow University, rejected criticism of the way he had conducted the post mortem examination by Mr McGrory, who called his own expert witness, Professor Derek Pounder of Dundee University.

Professor Watson agreed that he was puzzled, however,

that he had not seen the reports of the ballistics expert and the forensic scientist in the case which might have helped him assess from where the bullets were fired and how they entered the terrorists' bodies.

He said that two of the bullets which killed Savage were found in Savage's head, that a total of 16 had hit him and that the injuries on top of both shoulders could be grazes from two additional bullets.

Mr Hucker said it was his clients' case that 15 bullets had been fired at the scene of Savage's death.

Professor Watson told the court: "Savage died because of the gunshot wounds to the head. He had multiple damages of the brain and scalp and also had gunshot wounds to the lung."

Mr McGrory asked him: "Would you say he was killed by bullets?"

Professor Watson replied: "I try to avoid those words,

but I would say it was like a frenzied attack."

"How many times was he shot in the back?"

"Five times," Professor Watson replied.

"I suppose he would have not been capable of meaningful movement after that?"

"None."

"Not capable of drawing a gun?"

"Certainly not."

Mr McGrory continued: "The scenario that fits your evidence is that he was brought down possibly from the back and more bullets fired into him."

Professor Watson replied: "He might have been facing them, then turned round and fallen and received the others. Either scenario fits."

Professor Pounder told the inquest that the position of the wounds and strike marks on the ground beside Savage's body suggested that some of the shots were pumped into him while he was lying on his back.

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WIN £198,000

Portfolio PLUS Accumulator

● Two people shared yesterday's £4,000 daily prize, so the Portfolio Accumulator stands at £198,000. Prices: page 33

Shares fall on report from CBI

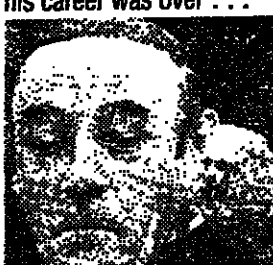
Share prices were driven sharply lower in London yesterday by a CBI survey that raised fears about the balance of payments and interest rates. At one stage, more than £5 billion was wiped from the value of publicly quoted companies with the FT-SE 100 index falling 27.3 points. But a firmer start to trading on Wall Street enabled it to finish 16.3 lower at 1,739.8. Base rate fears, 25

TOMORROW IN COLOUR

● Tomorrow The Times will appear in four sections, with full colour in each.



● Bernhard Langer writes on every golfer's greatest fear: the "yips", the psychological syndrome which so affected his putting that he feared his career was over...



● Desmond Morris identifies the relationship between Ascot, the Kop and the rituals of so-called "primitive" peoples...



● And Daley Thompson arrives in Seoul hoping for his third Olympic gold medal. Is he outstaying his welcome? For more details of Saturday's four-section full-colour Times, turn to page 3

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★★★★★

Delegate's warning to Kinnock

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

Senior trade union officials were furious last night after Mr Neil Kinnock, leader of the Labour Party, had been warned from the rostrum of the TUC conference in Bournemouth "not to desert your real friends".

The apparent attack on Mr Kinnock caught the con-

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ference by surprise, as it was delivered during a debate on the building industry by Mr George Henderson, head of the construction industry section of the Transport and General Workers' Union.

Earlier in the week, Mr Kinnock had provoked Mr Ron Todd, the TGWU general secretary, into telling him to keep out of TUC affairs.

Continued on page 24, col 4

Lawson calls for VAT alternative

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The Chancellor, Mr Nigel Lawson, yesterday launched a plan designed to head off proposals by the European Commission for the harmonization of value-added tax and excise duties.

The plan, due to be presented to a meeting of EEC finance ministers in Crete on September 17, would leave each country with the right to set its own VAT rates, subject to competitive pressures.

But in Brussels, Commission officials described the Chancellor's proposals as a thinly disguised attempt to retain fiscal frontiers and gave warning of a battle ahead.

Britain could continue to zero-rate food, children's clothing, fuel and light under the Chancellor's plan, whereas such items would be subject to a VAT rate of at least 4 per cent under EEC proposals.

Mr Lawson's plan is described as a "market-based approach" as fewer border controls

— and greater freedom for cross-border shopping — would penalize countries charging the highest VAT rates.

The plan would involve the introduction of postponed VAT accounting for imports (abolished in Britain three years ago) so that traders would no longer have to pay VAT at frontiers. It would also require streamlined procedures at frontiers for faster clearance of goods.

There is some doubt, shared by Treasury officials, over whether cross-border shopping in a freer EEC would produce a convergence of VAT rates.

Rates of VAT in the 12 member states range from 0 to 48 per cent (on certain luxury goods). Under the EEC proposals, countries would set a standard rate of VAT of between 14 and 20 per cent and a reduced rate of between 4 and 9 per cent.

Leading article, page 17

Howe attack on postal workers

By Staff Reporters

The Government last night made its first intervention in the postal dispute with Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Foreign Secretary, likening it to Luddism.

His remarks, in the course of a denunciation of the behaviour of the trade unions at Bournemouth this week, came as the Government emphasized its caution over using a suspension of the Post Office monopoly as a means of ending the dispute.

Management and the Union of Communication Workers remained locked in informal talks last night with no sign of a breakthrough in the bid to find a formula for ending the strike, which has paralysed mail services throughout most of Britain.

Mr Alan Tiffin, leader of the postal workers' union, left Bournemouth yesterday morning to be close to the "talks about talks" being held

at a secret venue in London. The talks, which have been going on since last Sunday, looked set to continue through the weekend.

Sir Geoffrey, speaking in Dartford, referred to the

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Collection system... 5
Bill Jordan... 16
Letters... 17

"thousand King Canutes on the beach at Bournemouth" who had set themselves against the tide of history and change. Bournemouth had

Continued on page 24, col 8

Green tape and smiles as Seoul goes on alert

From Gavin Bell, Seoul



An Olympics security guard on alert in Seoul

Suddenly there is green, sticky tape everywhere. On manhole covers, street lamps, electricity boxes — even over cracks in pavements — each piece neatly inscribed with when it was applied and by whom.

The sealing and regular inspection of anything remotely capable of concealing explosives is among the more discreet measures in a vast security operation now in full swing to safeguard the Olympics from terrorism.

In a country which has always lived on a knife-edge of armed conflict, such precautions are not only accepted, they are expected. Nothing, it seems, has been left to chance.

The defensive perimeters begin sev-

eral miles above the Olympic venues, with spy satellites, and far out to sea, with US and Korean warships. A tourist who went for a midnight swim at a beach resort recently found himself being stalked by two infantrymen with fixed bayonets.

At first sight it might appear that Seoul has a remarkably high unemployment rate, judging by the thousands of young men in civilian clothes lounging around public buildings and foreign missions. They are, of course, policemen, each carrying a small plastic bag containing a handgun.

Hotel patrons are subjected to the kind of rigorous screening normally reserved for presidential palaces under siege. The engines, boots and undersides of cars are searched meticulously before passengers

proceed through metal detectors (twice) and baggage checks.

If South Korea is an armed camp on full alert, the athletes' village adjacent to the Olympic park is its citadel of security. The entire area is surrounded by a wire fence with electronic sensors, closed-circuit television cameras and armed guards at regular intervals.

A visitor with the proper credentials is waved into channels of road blocks by sentries who check his pass yet again. Once inside, he passes through a metal detector and his belongings are X-rayed.

Protection of a more personal nature is offered by the village medical centre, which is distributing free condoms, along with "how to use" manuals in six languages, to prevent the spread of Aids.

Continued on page 24, col 2



A FREE BOOKLET ON MAKING YOUR WILL

Why do only 1 in 4 people make a will? Why leave problems for your relatives? The taxman may be the main beneficiary — the people you want to benefit may not inherit.

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NEWS ROUNDUP

Murderer flees from High Court

A convicted murderer yesterday knocked a prison officer to the ground and fled from the Royal Courts of Justice in central London.

Anthony James Hogan, aged 26, surprised his guards at the court buildings where he had been taken from Wormwood Scrubs Prison for a private hearing of child wardship proceedings. When two of the three prison officers attending him in a "secure area" were called away, he rushed at the third, knocking him down, and escaped.

Immigration charges

Four unemployed Turkish men were remanded in custody yesterday by Highbury Corner magistrates after police found Britain's biggest cache yet of forged documents. All were charged with conspiracy to contravene the Immigration Act, 1971. They are Refik Ozcan, aged 33, of Stoke Newington, north London; Hilmi Seheri, aged 33, of Leyton, east London; and Mustafa Yildas, aged 26, and Hamit Ersözoglu, aged 36, both of Islington, north London. A fifth person, Ann Carnegie, aged 42, of Highbury Grove, north London, was remanded on £7,500 bail.

Jobs scheme ruling

The Government was yesterday given the go-ahead to seek a court order outlawing Liverpool council's policy of blacklisting organizations which participate in the £1.5 billion Employment Training scheme. Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for Employment, was granted leave to apply for a court order against the council at a brief hearing before a High Court judge in London. The Government has accused the council of abusing or misusing its discretionary powers by imposing sanctions against people and organizations lawfully participating in the scheme.

Leading article, page 17

Samaritan spared fine

A driver who stopped on a motorway to help a stranded woman learnt yesterday that she will not have to pay a fixed penalty fine. Mrs Cheryl Millward, of Westcroft, Wolverhampton, was fined £24 by Staffordshire police for blocking a carriageway when she stopped on an M54 slipway road to assist the woman, whose car had broken down.

Chess lead shared

Three British players lead the fifth National Westminster Bank Chess Tournament with one round remaining. David Norwood, Mark Hebden and Michael Adams are tied for first place with 5½ points out of eight. Each requires only a draw from his final game today to achieve grandmaster status. Results, round 7: Norwood ½, Hebden ½, Westerman (Finland) ½, Kosten ½; McNab (Scotland) 0, Adams 1; Kudrin (USA) 1, King 0; Rogers (Australia) 1, Hodgson 0. Round 8: Hebden ½, Hodgson ½; King 0, Rogers 1; Adams ½, Kudrin ½; Kosten 1, McNab 0; Norwood ½, Westerman ½.

Backing for TV-am

The Independent Broadcasting Authority gave qualified approval yesterday to proposals by TV-am, the breakfast television station fighting for survival, for improving programme output. The IBA will review TV-am performance again in November. It now appears, barring unforeseen disasters, that TV-am is in the clear. The IBA agreed yesterday to allow Crown Communications Group, which holds 58.2 per cent of the shares in London Broadcasting Company (Holdings), to make an offer for the remaining 41.8 per cent of LBC's equity.

Crumbling society 'is Thatcher legacy'

By Richard Ford and Philip Webster

Mrs Margaret Thatcher's years as Prime Minister have led to social disintegration and a growing undercurrent of violence, a senior member of Labour's Shadow Cabinet said last night.

Mr Bryan Gould, the party's spokesman on trade and industry, blamed the decline in respect for the law, the crumbling of the cement holding the nation together, and social malaise on Mrs Thatcher's philosophy of the "winner takes all".

However, those attitudes were creating unease and the Government had been forced to recognize the corrosive effects of their policies because of the electoral risks accompanying mounting concern at lawlessness and the undercurrent of violence in the cities. In a speech

outlining a strategy for Labour to capitalize on the unease caused by government philosophy, Mr Gould said: "The Thatcher legacy is one of social disintegration and the blighting of individual lives."

"Her repudiation of social concern and responsibility and her insistence that there is only one game in town, in which winner takes all and no holds barred, have led us to an almost tangible corrosion of the social cement that holds us together."

Mr Gould said if people were told that the only game was winner takes all, no one should complain if the losers such as football hooligans decided to play by their own rules and were immune to society's revulsion. "That is why there is a growing undercurrent of violence in our cities, and declining respect for the law", he added.

Mr Gould ridiculed the concept of

the "active citizen", saying the commendable, but capricious and unreliable acts of individual generosity and voluntary effort were unlikely to meet the scale of society's needs. Those likely to volunteer would be those with a vested interest in the status quo and so unlikely to reconcile the disaffected to their fate, he said.

The growing concern about social disintegration was one Labour could exploit by promoting the concept of social co-operation and citizenship. It would define the minimum rights which each person could rely on and also protect everyone's individuality. Labour's deputy leader yesterday issued an appeal to the party for loyalty to its leadership, warning that it would have to end its damaging self-indulgence to regain power.

Mr Roy Hattersley said that Labour must become again the party of comrades and friends and that

loyalty was necessary for its political survival. He told a party meeting in Bracknell, Berkshire: "We cannot spend five years abusing the party leadership and then tell the voters, during a five-week election campaign, that those same leading figures should form the government of Britain."

Mr Hattersley said he had no doubt that victory was in Labour's power, but to achieve it the whole party had to make victory its central objective.

"That does not mean the abandonment of principle. But it does mean an end to some of the self-indulgence which has so damaged us in the past—the competition for top place in some imaginary league table of socialist virtue, the willingness to pander to unrepresentative cliques and caucuses rather than to speak for the country as a whole."

"We have to trust one another if the electorate are to trust us", he said.

Sinn Fein chief dropped from Channel 4 show

By Andrew Billen, Paul Vallely and Howard Foster

Channel 4 last night abandoned plans to invite Mr Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, to appear on a discussion programme late tomorrow night. The reason, it said, was that it was impossible to provide a "satisfactory context" in which Mr Adams could appear on *After Dark* to discuss Northern Ireland.

However, the Independent Broadcasting Authority said last night that in any event it would have instructed Channel 4 to withdraw Mr Adams's invitation.

It said: "Under the Broadcasting Act we have a duty not to offend against public feeling. Having a member of Sinn Fein expound his views on a two to three-hour discussion programme would have caused grave offence to many." The ban did not preclude short news interviews with Mr Adams.

Channel 4 said a tentative approach had been made by *After Dark* but that it had proved "impossible to achieve a satisfactory context in which to treat this serious and sensitive subject". The programme, which is transmitted live and open-ended each

Saturday, was preparing another subject. Throughout yesterday MPs and academics called on Channel 4 to withdraw its "disgraceful" invitation to Mr Adams. Provisional Sinn Fein MP for Belfast West.

Professor Paul Wilkinson, of Aberdeen University, who is chairman of the Research Foundation for the Study of Terrorism, said he refused an invitation to be in the programme after being told Mr Adams was to appear.

The foundation said: "It is disgraceful that the spokesman for the publicity organization of the IRA should be given full scope on television when the IRA have been responsible for a number of terrible outrages recently."

The foundation protested to the Independent Broadcasting Authority and the Home Secretary, Mr Douglas Hurd.

The Irish government should take a more serious attitude to the question of extradition, Mr Sean Barrett, the Fine Gael shadow Minister for Justice, said in Dublin yesterday. Mr Charles Haughey's Fianna Fail government was "uncomfortable

in fighting terrorism", he said. This perception from abroad was costing the Irish Republic £1,000 million in lost tourism every year.

In London, the Government announced yesterday that a task force had been set up to combat racketeering by paramilitary groups in Northern Ireland. It will be headed by a senior official from the Inland Revenue on the mainland and is part of the anti-terrorism initiative begun by the Government in recent months.

The group will be drawn from members of the security services, Customs, Department of Social Security, and the Inland Revenue. Nationalist opposition to the new suggested security initiatives in Northern Ireland has been highlighted in a survey conducted among 1,000 Ulster people.

The survey, whose findings are released today, shows that supporters of all political parties believed security had worsened since the signing of the Anglo-Irish agreement.

Twenty per cent favoured a return to internment in Northern Ireland.

Channel record



A jubilant Richard Davey, aged 23, of Folkestone, Kent, at St Margaret's Bay, near Dover, yesterday after breaking by 10 minutes the record for the fastest swim from France to England. He swam from Cap Gris Nez to St Margaret's Bay in eight hours, five minutes (Photograph: Mike Griggs).

Hospitals to have bigger say in NHS

By Philip Webster Chief Political Correspondent

Greater independence for hospitals to run their own affairs with less interference from regional and district authorities is to be a central feature of the Government's shake-up of the health service.

Hospital managers, introduced after the Griffiths Report on the National Health Service, are to be given more powers over staffing, spending and other key matters. The move is part of radical proposals which will be seen as weakening the influence of the regional authorities, which have been criticized by some ministers as being too cumbersome and bureaucratic.

Hospitals will be urged to build on the powers granted in the Health and Medicines Bill to generate more income by selling services to the private sector and to shop around for the best services.

Those which perform efficiently will be rewarded in their budgets allocated by Whitehall through the district and regional authorities.

The review is apparently making good progress and proposals for legislation are expected to be published in a White Paper before the end of the year. Mr Kenneth Clarke, Secretary of State for Health, hopes to outline some of the Government's thinking at the Conservative Party conference in Brighton next month.

Indications that the review is gathering pace came earlier this week with a meeting at Downing Street, chaired by Mrs Margaret Thatcher, and attended by a wider group of ministers than those who have been involved in the details of the review.

The review has ruled out blanket tax relief to encourage involvement in private insurance, after strong objections from the Treasury, but it is expected that there will be a limited scheme to offer relief for the elderly.

The key to the reforms, according to senior Whitehall sources, will be efficiency, bringing the level of services offered by hospitals up to that of the best.

The Prime Minister believes that to do that power must be steadily transferred from the authorities to the hospitals.

Scien Chern leukaem

Cancer specialists are worried by a 37 per cent increase in the incidence of childhood leukaemia in Scotland last year. They said that there was not rule out a link with the Chernobyl nuclear power station disaster in 1986.

The increase has affected children aged under four. Most of the cases appeared in those aged under 12 months, where there was a 50 per cent increase in the number of cases in the first months of this year.

The timing of the increase suggests a link with the Chernobyl accident. Doctors in Glasgow and Edinburgh say they have been unable so far to find evidence to support the theory, but could not exclude it.

The research, detailed in a letter from Dr Brenda Wilson of the Royal Hospital for Children, Glasgow, and Dr Tim Eden, of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, published in *Lancet* today, shows there were 48 cases of childhood leukaemia, 13 more than in the year before.

Of these, 33 were under four, compared with 19 cases in the year before on 1971-80 rates. There have been three cases this year of leukaemia in children aged under one, although only one would have been expected in the whole year, the doctors say.

The letter says: "We cannot explain the apparent increase in incidence but are now investigating the matter in more detail."

Microwave

Local television stations are beam programmes into homes through microwave links. The Government's decision to back the use of the video distribution system was announced yesterday by Mr Norman Fowler, Secretary of State for the Home Office. The system, known as MVD, was developed by the electronics company, which could be in operation as early as November.

In Birmingham, West Midlands Cable Company is bidding for the franchise to install a cable system and would use the system to bring programmes to customers. It was waited to be compared with conventional cable systems. A microwave system would be installed in the city's North West. Programmes would be fed into homes via a wave receiver located

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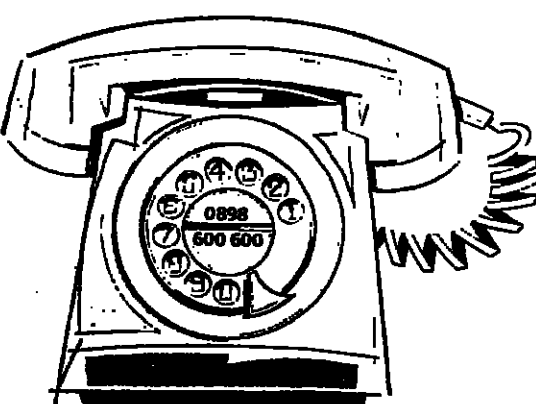
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Industry is

The world's airlines and air safety organizations are joining forces in a "ditch" attempt to prevent governments from Europe to take urgent steps to prevent congestion on the ground and in the air. The world's aviation industry is being urged to take action unless politicians take more decisions and work together to provide more air space and build more runways. The booming air travel industry will be throttled by a doubling in the number of people flying over the next 12 years.

"People have been complaining and shouting about congestion for months without any result," Mr Norman Jackson, of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), said in Farnborough yesterday. "It is no good shouting more. What we must do is get them through quiet agreements that there are positive decisions that can be taken which can increase capacity by 20 per cent immediately."

An IATA task force consisting of many airlines involved in the aviation industry is working on mimics throughout Europe.

Christ film p

London Regional Television has banned a poster for the film *The Last Temptation of Christ*, the film director Martin Scorsese, which is shown in London tonight. Advertising told IATA that the film's British distributor had been rejected not because it was working or creative but because it promoted an "offensive religious group."

Scientists study Chernobyl link in leukaemia outbreak

By Jill Sherman, Social Services Correspondent

Cancer specialists are mystified by a 37 per cent increase in the incidence of childhood leukaemia in Scotland last year. They said that they could not rule out a link with the Chernobyl nuclear power station disaster in 1986.

The increase has only affected children aged under four. Most of the cases have appeared in those aged under 12 months, where there was a 50 per cent increase in the number of cases in the first six months of this year.

The timing of the cluster suggests a link with the Chernobyl accident. Paediatricians in Glasgow and Edinburgh say they have been unable so far to find evidence to support the theory, but they could not exclude it.

The research, detailed in a letter from Dr Brenda Gibson, of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Glasgow, and Dr Tim Eden, of the Royal Hospital for Sick Children, Edinburgh, published in *The Lancet* today, shows there were 48 cases of childhood leukaemia, 13 more than expected, last year.

Of these, 33 were aged under four, compared with an expected 19 cases calculated on 1971-80 rates.

There have been three new cases this year of leukaemia in children aged under a year, although only one or two would have been expected for the whole year, the doctors say.

The letter says: "We cannot explain the apparently greatly increased incidence but we are now investigating the patients in more detail".

Dr Gibson, a consultant haematologist, said yesterday that parents had suggested an association with Chernobyl. However, body scanning on four babies and their mothers had shown there was no evidence of increased levels of radiocaesium, the by-product of fallout.

Radiocaesium is detectable after several years. Radioiodine, the other radioisotope from the Chernobyl explosion, has a short life and would no longer show up on scans.

Dr Gibson said two unpublished studies in Scandinavia and West Germany showed there was no evidence of an increase in leukaemia incidence in the past two years. "We have no idea of the cause of the increase. We scanned a number of parents and children and we have no evidence of a link with Chernobyl, but we cannot exclude it", she said.

Dr Eden, a consultant paediatric haematologist and oncologist, admitted there were more diagnosed cases of childhood leukaemia in the west of Scotland where the radiation fall out was highest after Chernobyl.

He said only a small number of babies out of the 48 cases had been scanned for radiocaesium, partly because it was a difficult process. He said the study had two drawbacks.

"We were measuring the children at the wrong time, not immediately after the accident, and we may have been looking at the wrong radionuclide." The doctors

are extending their research to look at places of birth and parental occupation.

"If these do not suggest some link we will try to set up a controlled study, taking a random group of children from the same areas", Dr Gibson said.

They have appealed to researchers in other European countries to investigate whether an increase in childhood leukaemia has occurred elsewhere.

Leukaemia can be triggered by a viral infection or by exposure to abnormally high doses of radiation, as well as a number of other factors, Dr Eden said. Some children seemed to be more susceptible, while some who developed the disease were born with an immune defect or other abnormalities.

He said: "The children we examined did not suffer these defects. They must have either been very susceptible for some other reason or exposed to something very big."

This could have been a high level of radiation or a particularly virulent virus.

Cigarette smoking significantly increases the risk of contracting leukaemia, according to an article in the latest issue of the *British Medical Journal*.

Dr Leo Kinlen, director of the Cancer Research Campaign unit at Edinburgh University, and Dr E Rogot, of the National Institutes of Health, Maryland, show that even those smoking less than 10 cigarettes a day may face a 34 per cent higher risk of contracting leukaemia.

Recording a new Beethoven



Mr Wyn Morris, the Welsh conductor, yesterday conducting the first performance of Beethoven's Tenth Symphony. The only surviving movement from the work was constructed from Beethoven's sketches which were found in Berlin by Dr Barry Cooper, a lecturer in music at Aberdeen University. Mr Morris was conducting the London Symphony Orchestra at Walthamstow Town Hall, in north-east London, for a recording. The symphony will receive its public premiere next month at the Festival Hall, London, played by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra. (Photograph: Marc Aspland)

Stillborn seal pups hint at extinction

By Patrick O'Hanlon

Grey seals may become extinct because of the disease which has led to thousands of seal deaths, a marine biologist said yesterday.

Mr Mark Simmonds, of the Seal Rehabilitation Unit, Norfolk, was speaking after three stillborn premature pups were washed up on the Orkneys shortly before the start of the autumn breeding season.

Mr Simmonds said "All

grey seals may now be affected by this epidemic. We may be talking about extinction."

Thousands of grey seals are expected to come ashore on the Orkneys in the next few weeks to begin the 12-week breeding season.

Scientists from the Sea Mammal Research Unit, Cambridge, will begin a series of tests today to find out if the virus which has decimated

North Sea common seals has infected the grey seal population in Britain.

A three-man team spent 24 hours on the Farne Islands, off Northumberland, one of Europe's biggest breeding colonies, where eight seals were found dead last month.

A spokesman said: "Premature birth is as much a symptom of the virus as pneumonia. If the pregnant seals are

affected, a whole generation of grey seals could be at risk and it could take many years for the colonies to recover."

Mr Simmonds said all seals in British waters were in danger. At least 650 had died in the past few weeks.

The disease may also be spreading. A sick seal showing symptoms of distemper was seen in Penzance harbour, Cornwall, yesterday.

TOMORROW IN COLOUR

● In tomorrow's four-section, full-colour Times:

● New Books and Records pages include reviews of Antoine de Saint Exupéry on aviation, Kiri Te Kanawa's *Manon Lescaut*, William Gaskell on the theatre and new pop star Tanita Tikaram.

● In the Eating and Drinking Pages, Frances Bissell, *The Times* Cook adds an eel to her Sunday lunch. Jane MacQuibby reveals the secret wines of Burgundy and Jonathan Meades crosses fish-knives with a wine-waiter.

Plus . . .



Trend centres

● From Carnaby Street to Brompton Cross, shopping streets arrive, dazzle and fade. Deyan Sudjic identifies the latest changing places

● Has Paradise gone downhill? George Hill reviews a new guide book to the hereafter.

● The full-colour Property page looks at modern homes which reflect their owners' personalities.

Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

Mr Mark Waghorne, aged 27, from Kenley, Surrey threw caution to the wind when he heard he had won a half share in yesterday's Portfolio prize of £4,000.

"I am going to spend, spend, spend!" he said. "I shall be going out with friends to the pub this evening to celebrate - and all the drinks will be on me." The other winner was Mrs Eileen Paul, aged 70, from Epsom, Surrey.

Microwave system to transform TV

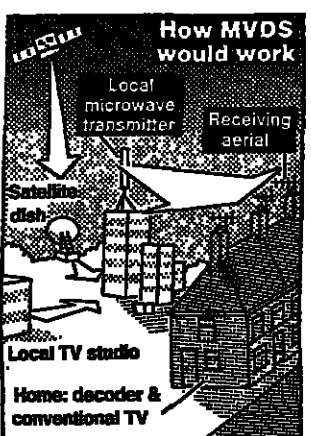
By Robert Matthews, Technology Correspondent

Local television stations that beam programmes straight into homes through the use of microwaves could spring up throughout the UK after the Government's decision to back the use of multipoint video distribution systems.

The system, known as MVDS, was demonstrated yesterday by Marconi, the electronics company, and could be in operation as early as November.

In Birmingham, West Midlands Cable Communications is bidding for the franchise to install a cable network there and would use an MVDS system to bring programmes to customers while they waited to be connected to the conventional cable network.

A microwave transmitter would be installed on top of the city's NatWest building. Programmes would be beamed into homes via a microwave receiver bolted to the



Multipoint video distribution systems that will beam programmes direct into homes

conventional television aerial, which feeds the signals to a "black box" connected to a normal television.

More than half a million homes and offices will come

within the range of the Birmingham transmitter from the first day of operation. The network will cost about £32 million to set up. The cabling process is likely to take 10 years, and cost £170 million.

Although MVDS is likely to make its first appearance as a stop-gap to help cable companies to finance the installation of their networks, the technology will revolutionize broadcasting. The Government wants it to be used in the setting up of TV stations throughout the country, and the technology appears ideal for such an application. The cost of the home receiving equipment of the type planned for Birmingham is about £50, and transmitting equipment costs as little as £30,000 for a station with two channels.

In its White Paper on broadcasting, likely to be published next month, the Government is expected to accept

recommendations that a special, high-frequency version of MVDS be used to set up such stations. Unlike the Birmingham network, which will broadcast at a frequency of 2.5 gigahertz (GHz), this new system would operate at about 12 GHz, the same frequency as that used for direct broadcasting by satellite. It would, therefore, enable a single aerial to pick up local and satellite broadcasts.

The cost of transmitting and receiving equipment for the higher-powered 12 GHz system is likely to be greater than for 2 GHz.

The cable companies see the 12 GHz local TV concept as a threat to their business, and claim that technical problems will prevent it becoming operational for years, but Marconi, which developed the 2 GHz system to be used in Birmingham, is known to be close to perfecting a 12 GHz system.

Ultrasound screening report

'Six thousand can be saved'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Six thousand unnecessary deaths from ruptured abdominal arteries could be prevented if the Government introduced a national screening programme to detect enlarged blood vessels, surgeons claim today.

In a report in the *Lancet*, doctors at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, say that ultrasound screening for aneurysms (dilated arteries) in the abdomen could detect the more serious conditions which could be operated on before the blood vessels burst open.

More than 2,500 men between the ages of 60 and 79 die of this disease every year and the surgeons say that 600 lives could be saved annually if it was detected before a potentially fatal rupture. If all men

aged 65 to 74 were screened now, 6,000 lives could be saved, they say.

Mr Jack Collin, consultant vascular surgeon at the John Radcliffe Hospital, Oxford, said yesterday that only one in five patients survived a rupture if it occurred at home.

The surgeons' claims are based on a pilot study carried out in Oxford on 824 men aged 65 to 74 who were invited for ultrasound screening. Nearly 6 per cent of the sample had aortic or a more common artery aneurysm, and, in 2 per cent, the aneurysm was more than 4cm in diameter.

Extension of the screening programme to England and Wales could expect to identify 52,500 people with an abdominal aortic aneurysm. If elective surgical replacement of the aneurysm was accepted by

only 60 per cent of those with aortic arteries more than 4cm in diameter, the figure of 6,000 would be reached.

The surgical mortality rate for elective aortic surgery is now about 5 per cent nationally, said Mr Collin.

The study also confirmed the established link with smoking and arterial disease. More than a third of the men studied had hypertension or were being treated with anti-hypertensive therapy. "Our ultrasound screening programme is easy to organize, cheap to run, and achieves a better than 50 per cent response rate."

Mr Collin said that the same equipment could be used as ultrasound screening in pregnancy although more machines, costing £20,000 each, would need to be installed in hospitals and skilled staff would be needed.

Farnborough Air Show Industry 'is facing collapse'

By Harvey Elliott, Air Correspondent

The world's airlines, airports and air safety organizations are joining forces in a "last ditch" attempt to persuade governments throughout Europe to take urgent action to prevent congestion on the ground and in the air, leading to the effective collapse of the world's aviation industry.

They are convinced that unless politicians take instant decisions and work together to provide more air space and build more runways, the booming air travel industry will be throttled by a doubling in the number of people flying over the next 12 years.

"People have been screaming and shouting about this for months without any success", Mr Norman Jackson, of the International Air Transport Association (IATA), said at Farnborough yesterday.

"It is no good shouting any more. What we must do as professionals is to persuade them through quiet argument that there are positive decisions that can be taken now which can increase capacity by 20 per cent immediately."

An IATA "task force" consisting of many organizations involved in the aviation industry is seeing senior ministers throughout Europe

to tell them the planned liberalization of the European Market in 1992 could prove an economic disaster unless action is taken immediately to provide for increased capacity to cope with the expected surge in the number of passengers carried by airlines.

Already, it says, one in four people worldwide are air passengers and this will double to two billion passengers a year by the turn of the century.

But in Europe each nation is determined to maintain its own air space controls and refuses to co-operate in planning a single air traffic control system as already exists in the United States, it says.

"Nobody is talking about the nasty bits that go along with liberalization", Mr Cliff Moore, chairman of the Airports Association Consultative Council, said.

Although new airports are desperately needed, few are being built. "Pressure mainly from environmentalist groups has led to governments prohibiting such construction in the past", the task force says.

Now it is urging the building of a fifth terminal at Heathrow and want plans to be drawn up now for new

runway capacity to be made available in the South-east of England within the next few years.

It is particularly concerned that constant strikes by air traffic controllers and staff shortages throughout Europe have affected adversely even the small improvements that have been made in air traffic control.

And it wants governments to work together rather than to solve their difficulties in isolation.

Among other demands are an improvement in co-operation between civil and military users of the congested air space, an improved flow management system, a lifting of the noise restrictions and "by pass" routes avoiding the main congested areas in the air over Europe.

● A supersonic business jet capable of carrying 12 senior executives up to 3,500 miles in little more than two hours is being developed by one of the world's leading business planemakers, Gulfstream.

Talks are taking place between the American manufacturers and Rolls Royce over the engines for the jet which is planned to be in service within the next 12 years.

£30m drug ship haul a record

By Mark Ellis

Customs officers recovered more cannabis from the Salton Sea cargo ship yesterday, bringing the total haul so far to a record 10 tonnes worth more than £30 million.

Officers suspect more drugs are hidden aboard the Honduras-registered vessel, which was impounded last weekend at Ramsgate harbour, Kent. It is expected to be dry-docked for further examination.

High-grade cannabis was found in a compartment welded within a portside water tank.

The captain, engineer and six crew were remanded in custody for seven days by Ramsgate magistrates yesterday, charged with importing cannabis. There was no application for bail and reporting restrictions were not lifted.

The men are: Doce Nieland, aged 41, captain, of Amsterdam; Jean William Hooker, aged 31, engineer, of Colombia; Look Offermans, aged 29, Richard de Vries, aged 30, and Thomas Alexander Rincken, aged 35, all of Amsterdam; John Gomez-Marin, aged 24, Rupert Edison Jeffries, aged 29, and Roendo Rincon-Rincon, aged 30, all of Colombia.

Christ film posters banned from Tube

By Andrew Billen

London Regional Transport has banned posters advertising *The Last Temptation of Christ*, the film directed by Martin Scorsese, which opens in London tonight.

London Transport Advertising told UIP UK, the film's British distributors, that the advertisement had been rejected not because of its wording or design but because it promoted a product of the nature of which had offended religious groups.

Both the Archbishop of

Canterbury and Cardinal Basil Hume, the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Westminster, have urged Christians to boycott the film.

UIP UK yesterday accused London Regional Transport of censorship and asked it to reconsider.

Mr Ken Green, director of marketing at UIP, said: "It is regrettable that London Transport Advertising should take this action despite having advised me that they have not received any letters from

the public encouraging this course of action, and despite the fact that the British Board of Film Classification has given the film an 18 certificate and the Director of Public Prosecutions has indicated that showing the film will not contravene the criminal law.

"LTA have based their objections on the comments of two church leaders who have not seen the film."

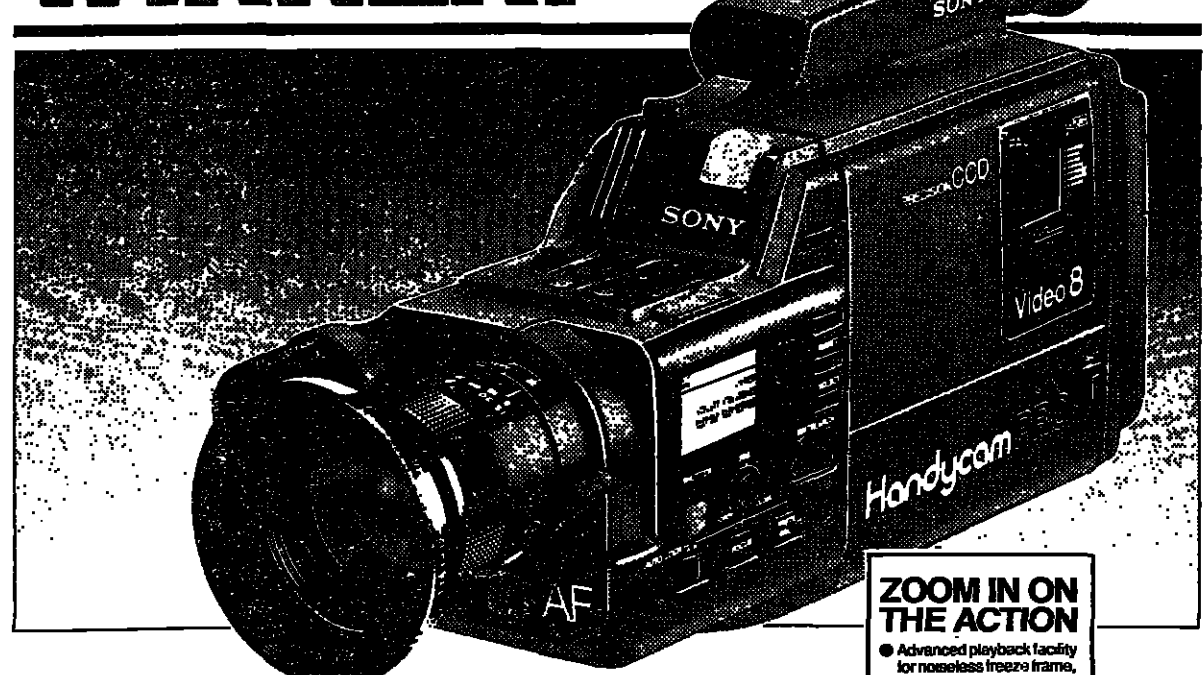
LTA replied that it was irrelevant whether critics had

seen the film. It was a longstanding London Transport rule that it would not display advertisements likely to offend religious groups.

Mr Scorsese attempted to avoid waiting reporters when he flew into Britain last night from Venice.

He said, when asked to comment on the disagreement surrounding his film: "I would have to think very carefully before I would want to say anything".

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ZOOM IN ON THE ACTION

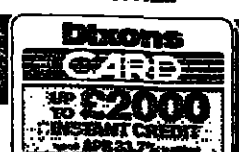
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TUC CONFERENCE

Delors call to 'join architects of Europe'

British trade unions were invited to join the architects of Europe by M Jacques Delors, president of the European Commission. "Europe needs you", he told TUC delegates at Bournemouth yesterday.

Europe was living through a peaceful revolution in which everyone must participate and to which everyone must adapt, he said. That was the challenge of 1992 and the single European market now being taken up by trade unions across Europe. The Commission would respond.

"The globalization of markets and new technologies affect our perceptions and our way of life. All concerned with the organization of society must adapt. That includes the trade unions of Europe."

Unemployment was the main challenge. It was particularly the young and disadvantaged who were suffering. There had been some successes, but the problem was far from being solved. "The policies tried

have not been adequate."

There were many ways of reacting to 1992. Some were sceptical, doubting that the potential benefits would be large. Enthusiasts saw the internal market as the answer to all problems. Finally there were architects, who saw the opportunities and were ready to tackle difficulties as they arose. He was an architect and he invited British trade unionists to join him.

After 1992, the EEC would be characterized by co-operation as well as competition. The large market would increase competition, create new job opportunities and contribute to a better standard of living. These benefits would be fully achieved only with increased co-operation.

The social dimension was very important. It would be unacceptable for Europe to become a source of social regression. The Commission had agreed that measures to complete the market

should not diminish the level of social protection in each member state. Workers' living and working conditions must improve and measures must be taken on collective bargaining at European level. Concrete progress now depended on the architects.

He had proposed that every worker should have the right to be covered by a collective agreement (appliance). A proposal to give workers or their representatives the right to participate in the management of companies was on the table of the Council of Ministers for a quick decision (appliance). The right to life-long education should be extended to all workers.

There would be meetings with the heads of national trade union and management organizations in January to consider these initial proposals. Other suggestions from both sides of industry were welcome. "In my opinion, social dialogue and collective

bargaining are essential pillars of our democratic society and social progress" (applause).

He was not offering a miracle cure with millions of jobs and general prosperity. There are no easy solutions. This world is harsh and rapidly changing. Properly managed, 1992 can help us to adapt, to meet the challenges and reap the benefits.

Mr Norman Willis, general secretary of the TUC, who introduced and welcomed M Delors, said that the European Community was not going to go away and 1992 could not be deferred. The TUC had to make the most of it. It had a vital, influential role to play in the European Community.

The British Government would not help, "but fortunately there is another Europe with which we can work". It was typified by Herr Ernst Breit, president of the European Trade Union Confederation (whom he also welcomed to the platform), and M Delors, a

man with unique authority to relate the economic and industrial aspects of Europe to its social and political aspects.

M Delors had for years worked closely with the French trade union movement and he had not changed his philosophy. "As 1992 approaches we hope that Jacques Delors will use the next four years of his presidency to lay the foundations of that society of which he is such a powerful advocate — a Europe which is just as well as prosperous."

● The single European market meant trade unions throughout the Community were facing the greatest challenge in European history, for it would decide what part Europe would follow in the coming decades, said Mr Breit, told delegates.

He was bringing a message of solidarity from the confederation to the TUC which, he said, was regarded as a pillar of the European trade union movement.

"We have a responsibility to our members throughout the Community to find a common trade union response to this challenge", he said. "We will only succeed in doing this if we develop mutual solidarity and unity in our countries and in Europe to make the voice of the workers heard."

There was no place for building the future of Europe on conservative lines. A workable plan must serve the people, all the people.

Conservative political forces sought to deregulate social relations, split and destabilize trade unions, to dismantle social protection, negate social responsibility and impose unquestioning submission to the dictate of the market.

"Against that conservative blueprint, we propose a Europe which links up democracy, social justice and economic success."

Workers in unions 'will be only ones ready for 1992'

The central message of 1992 must be hammered home: that working people in trade unions would benefit while those not in unions would not know what had hit them, Mr Ron Todd, chairman of the TUC's international committee, said yesterday when presenting the general council's report on Europe.

"Workers in trade unions stand to benefit from our involvement in all the changes that are taking place", he told delegates to the TUC Congress in Bournemouth. "Those who are not in trade unions will not be able to benefit from the knowledge, expertise and practice of trade unions and it will be too late for them to say they did not know about it."

There was nothing to be gained by approaching the Government, the only card game in town was in Brussels and it was a game of poker of which unionists had to learn the rules and learn them quickly.

It was also time to learn who was who and what was what among their trade union counterparts in the Community and learn how to make best use of European contacts.

With some justification, this nation had been regarded as insular. It would be good if some union representatives could address conferences in Europe in their own languages, though he confessed that he had difficulty mastering English (laughter).

Europe had to be very much on the TUC agenda and new machinery must be set up so that co-ordination was not just in words but in deeds and effective action.

"I believe we have to seize the initiative in this volatile debate from the employers. They have misread the situation. They are under the illusion that they can have all the commercial harmonization they want and exclude anything which looks like social harmonization or workers' rights."

There would be a good deal of

EUROPE

restructuring of European industry and that would be accepted by workers if they were a part of it, but if they were not they would resist the changes.

The tenth year of Thatcherism would coincide with the next European elections. A decisive majority for social progress in the European Parliament would do much to undermine the legacy of unbridled capitalism that she would otherwise leave.

During her 10 years, Mrs Thatcher had put more and more obligations on the trade unions, now it was time for trade unionists to put obligations on the employers.

Section three of the European Act gave unions great opportunities to secure individual and collective entitlements that they had never had before in Britain.

"We must maximize the benefits and minimize the cost."

● It was remarkable that 11 unions could be associated with a wide-ranging composite motion on Europe.

Mr Roy Grantham, general secretary of the Association of Professional, Executive, Clerical and Computer Staff, said when he proposed the motion, which spread across three pages of the general purposes committee's report.

The motion said that the European Community's plans for 1992 would not enhance the quality of life for working people and their families unless they were accompanied by parallel measures to safeguard jobs and working conditions within member states.

It also called on the general council to work through the European Trade Union Confederation (ETUC) and other international trade union organizations to encourage working links between British unions and their counterparts abroad and to establish Europe-wide bargaining.

Mr Grantham said that the motion was a comprehensive response to some of the most far-reaching changes seen in the industrial structure and indus-

trial relations arrangements in anyone's working life.

More jobs would be produced and British trade unions must see that they got their share.

Those who did not think 1992 had anything to do with them should reflect that in public purchasing contracts it would be mandatory for local authorities to consider tenders from suppliers in any European country.

That was why it was necessary to work with the ETUC on a campaign for a labour regional clause to be inserted into new contracts.

Mr Doug Hoyle, Manufacturing, Science and Finance Union, and Labour MP for Warrington North, said that the question to be asked was whether union members would benefit from 1992. The answer was likely to be no. All trade unionists should be aware of how 1992 would affect them and they had to forge international links. Many unions, including his own, were already operating across national boundaries. The day of the Euro-union had dawned.

Mr Bill Jordan, president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union, said that the internal market represented the greatest common challenge to trade unions in coming years. The threats to union members were there for all to see but there were great potential benefits as well.

If social measures were harmonized, British trade unionists could gain rights of consultation and participation enjoyed by their European counterparts. Similarly, European trade unionists could gain British standards of health and safety. It was vital to take the initiative now.

Mr David Williams, of GMBATU, called for a jointly funded trade union project to produce an in-depth, sector by sector, analysis of the impact of the single European market on employment. The unions must not waste time, money and resources as in the 1970s when they woke up too late to technological change.

The general council's report on Europe 1992 and the composite motion were passed unanimously.

has agreed to inform and consult the unions on a wide range of matters, including restructuring, training and technological change.

A union liaison committee is made up of representatives from Spain, Italy, the United Kingdom, West Germany and France on a proportional basis and will rotate to elect the various unions party to the new agreement.

A copy of the protocol agreement between Thomson Grand Public and the federation, which is seen as a model for future agreements, shows that union representatives will be informed of the industrial, trading and research activities of the company.

The federation agreement with Thomson Grand Public brings together senior representatives of the management and workforce. The company



M Jacques Delors: Opportunities of a harsh and rapidly changing world

'We must put our own house in order'

Union racism must be fought

Unions must live up to their responsibilities to fight racism and sexism in their own ranks, Mr Ken Gill, chairman of the equal rights committee, told delegates.

The TUC had taken steps to put its own house in order. The equal rights department, promised last year, would start operation after the congress.

But the commitment to fight discrimination against women and black people was a job for unions and the TUC in partnership. Unions had responsibilities too — which some had not lived up to. "I would love to name those unions. I won't today, but I will if they don't come up to scratch in future."

At the TUC's black workers' conference in July, impatience and scepticism had been voiced towards the movement. "Make no mistake, our credibility is on the line."

Miss Gloria Mills, National Union of Public Employees, successfully moved a motion calling for a review of the sex discrimination and equal pay laws, the strengthening of the Race Relations Act and a review of discrimination faced by manual workers in comparison to white-collar staff.

She said that unions had

much work to do to make sure they were effectively representing black workers.

"Trade unions have been failing not only effectively to represent black members but, more fundamentally, in confronting racism in their own structures as well as the workplace. Unions must face and respond to legitimate criticism."

● The congress gave unanimous backing to a further resolution on equal rights for women in employment, but not before being told from the platform that even trade union negotiators could be guilty of indirect discrimination.

Mrs Ada Maddocks, chairwoman of the TUC women's committee, said that, although the TUC was working nationally to secure such benefits as maternity leave, it was at the local bargaining table where most could be done to improve the position of women in work.

However, many collective agreements discriminated against women.

Such agreements often excluded part-time workers, most of whom were women, from overtime and bonus schemes and often restricted their eligibility for promotion or pension rights.

EQUALITY

The resolution, moved by the Society of Telecom Executives, welcomed the establishment of a TUC equal rights department and urged it to produce guidelines for use in negotiations on career-break schemes and improvements in the career patterns for women.

It pointed out that more women were now taking breaks to look after elderly relatives than children under five.

Miss Rose Lambie, Confed-union of Health Service Employees, said that women were regarded as cheap labour. Trade union membership was now a woman's only defence against exploitation, yet many unions had fallen down on this.

She wanted the equal rights department of the TUC to act as a catalyst to prod those unions into action.

● Section 28 of the Local Government Act, which bans the promotion of homosexuality by local authorities, was a hastily conceived and badly drafted piece of legislation. Miss Margaret Duffy, of the Writers' Guild of Great Britain, told the congress.

25% electricity price rise 'before sell-off'

Electricity prices would rise by 21-25 per cent in the three years before privatization in order to make the industry attractive to private investors, Mr John Lyons, general secretary of the Engineers' and Managers' Association, told delegates.

He moved a motion instructing the general council to campaign against privatization, which would lead to less reliable and higher priced electricity. It was passed unanimously on a show of hands.

He predicted a price increase of at least 6 per cent in April and a further increase of 6-10 per cent in 1990. Unless profits were forced up in that way privatization would not succeed; hardly a sparkling contribution to the effectiveness of British industry.

The CBI estimated that a 15 per cent increase in electricity prices cost industry £900 million a year. The Central Electricity Generating Board put the cost of losing control of the national grid at £500 million a year and the cost of losing the electricity from power stations in order of cheapness would be

POWER

hundreds of millions a year more.

Mr Cecil Parkinson, Secretary of State for Energy, had said that the merit-order system would be preserved. That was not true. "That system cannot possibly be preserved under the Government's plans."

Against this, lower energy prices, principally for imported coal, were estimated to save £500 million a year. This saving would be swamped by the huge increase in other costs.

● The congress overwhelmingly carried a resolution noting with concern the Government's proposals to privatize the British Steel Corporation and calling on any future Government to maintain a degree of control over the steel industry.

Moving the motion, Mr Ray Evans, general secretary, Iron and Steel Trades Confederation, said that workers in the industry deserved a secure future free from the threat of closures and redundancies.

Channel tunnel concern

The congress unanimously passed a resolution calling for an expanded national building and transport system in connection with the Channel tunnel. Delegates had been told that Britain's regions would bleed to death unless hugely increased investment in infrastructure took place now.

The motion was proposed by Mr Albert Williams, general

secretary of the Union of Construction, Allied Trades and Technicians.

● The TUC is to hold detailed discussions with the Government, employers and expert bodies over safety issues in the construction and operation of the Channel tunnel, Mr Larry Sear, for the general council, told the congress.

Mandela badge ovation

A prolonged standing ovation greeted the presentation of a TUC gold badge to Mr James Moliso, president of the South African Mineworkers' Union on behalf of Nelson Mandela, the jailed African National Congress leader.

A similar reception followed the speech by Mr Alfred Nzo, secretary general of the ANC, who asked delegates to remember those freedom fighters who had died and suffered in the fight against apartheid.

"We shall continue to utilize different forms of struggle, legal and illegal, armed and unarmed... until victory is achieved."

● Delegates gave a rousing welcome to Mr Ben Ulenaga, a leader of the Namibian mine workers' union. He had been invited to last year's conference, but had been in prison since empty chair was then left on the platform for him.

● The conference carried a resolution from the National Association of Probation Officers viewing with concern evidence that the criminal justice system discriminated against black people with a disproportionate number of them being sent to prison.

"We are moving towards a concentration of the press that will not only affect what we read but our very thoughts — through our television screens."

She moved a motion calling on the TUC General Council to consider a restriction on the number of newspapers which could be owned by one individual or company and the introduction of measures to increase diversity of ownership. It was passed unanimously.

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Proud minnow in the big pool

By Tim Jones, Employment Affairs Correspondent

As the union barons gathered again last night at the private reception where the real business of wine and food was offered on a lavish scale, Mr William Joseph Redmond was involved in his own private bit of capitalist speculation.

Away from the five-star splendour of the conference hotel, where the general council members of the TUC stay, Mr Redmond was sitting near the front of the Granada Bingo Hall and his first line won him £250.

It was a typically independent thing to do, for Mr Redmond is a very rare union leader. At a time when big is beautiful and when most of his colleagues in the big league are scrambling to forge ever larger amalgamations, Mr Redmond is determined to maintain the autonomy of his Screw, Nut, Bolt and Rivet Trade Union.

With only 400 members, the SNBRTU is the smallest union to be represented at this year's congress, although not the smallest of the TUC affiliates: that honour belongs to the Sheffield Wool Shear Workers' Union, which has 17 members.

Mr Redmond has not yet addressed the TUC's 1,000 delegates. "But if there was any danger of my union being taken over I wouldn't hesitate to get up and defend our position. We are very proud of our independence."

"I have had invitations to attend some of the receptions, but I don't go because I am always approached by someone or other asking me to amalgamate. The number of offers — I won't call them bribes — we have had has been huge, but they always get the same answer."

Mr Redmond remembers that on one occasion his members at GKN in Birmingham had to fight off the approaches of an ambitious young shop steward called Bill Jordan, who is now president of the Amalgamated Engineering Union (membership £15,000).

Unlike Mr Jordan and other leaders of large unions, Mr Redmond does not have the benefit of a chauffeur to drive him to important meetings or the support of a large secretariat to administer the organization using the latest computer technology.



Mr Redmond at the congress (Photograph: Peter Trievnor)

His small office at Dudley Road, Birmingham, close to the railway, is a modest affair. It has a typewriter and telephone, and if he wants a cup of tea he has to make it himself.

"I am an ordinary worker and most of my union work is done in my spare time. Apart from a very small honorarium, I receive

no salary from my union, although I can claim expenses for attending the TUC conference."

According to some analysts, in the next year there will be only five or six "mega unions" in Britain. Mr Redmond is confident that the Screw, Nut, Bolt and Rivet Trade Union will still be around to claim its one seat at the congress.

Debates today

The last day of the conference starts with international affairs, which is expected to include a debate on disarmament. That will be followed by debates on industrial relations and trade union legislation. The conference is due to finish at lunch time.

Shots 'were'

The SAS fired four bullets into the head of Sean Savage, IRA terrorist, in a failed attempt to kill him as he lay wounded on the ground, the Gibraltar quest was told yesterday.

The shots were probably fired by a soldier standing above him, Professor Watson, a pathologist, said. "His death was like a zipped attack," the professor said, adding that the body was torn apart by at least four bullets. He agreed that the bullets had almost certainly been "done for" before the four bullets went into the head.

The bullets left four marks on the ground near the head where his head was outlined in chalk markings by security teams.

All four were marked together at the top of the outline and one slightly to the right.

Mr Patrick McCann, representing the families of three dead, gave a protest of the body and the scene in the witness box yesterday of the incident. The killings on March 17, 1988, at the Carrigan Road, Dublin, were the last of the four bullets.

He asked him to examine the "Barrack" examination.

Postal di

Lawyers collection

By Peter Evans, Law

Law Society, throughout the year, organize private functions to promote the work of the conveyancing.

The postal service ended property because solicitors to obtain a system from the Land Charge district land register.

Without a building society will not release funds, and cannot take place.

Secretaries of law societies in Wales have now arranged for the mail from the documents up from a firm of solicitors.

Brudges Ltd, an exchange company, 86 million in being used by members of the correspondents.

As the postal service of the defence of the Communications.

speaks of an intention and London's sorting office's biggest council's biggest.

They said that subjected to various teams of training.

"I am afraid strike-breakers, who to be named, the financial committee family, and obligations.

Country starts the depth of

Services and yesterday revealed that strike was having a significant impact on the.

Y Care International, YMCAs world charity, said that lives could be lost because public were unable to post donations to the.

dash flood against a motion. (11) received credit-card donations.

Organizers of the pop concert in St. Sunday, faced the flood. Only 7,000 people had been sold for a concert to attract 40,000 people.

Save the Children, it was "very concerned" Bangladesh appeal last night would be the dispute.

Blood Transfusion Centre peaked to the first delivery blood donor's supplies could run.

David Stephenson, regional manager at North Wales, said that 75 per cent of the factories and industries.

"If this happens, we to start rationing hospitals by the end of week. Routine operations as help replacement will be cancelled."

Employment
Staff at the Driver and Licensing Centre at the week if sent home from about 300 to 400 staff could be left off if the 1,000 laid off if the goes on indefinitely.

Credit cards
Companies, said that the would have to be paid, the would still have to pay money owed.

Bodies of three IRA terrorists were riddled with bullets, says pathologist

Shots that killed Savage 'were like frenzied attack'

The SAS fired four bullets into the head of Sean Savage, an IRA terrorist, in a frenzied attack as he lay wounded on the ground, the Gibraltar inquest was told yesterday.

The shots were probably fired by a soldier standing above him, Professor Alan Watson, a pathologist, said.

"His death was like a frenzied attack", the professor said, adding that the body was torn apart by at least 16 bullets. He agreed that Savage would almost certainly have been "done for" before the four bullets went into his head.

The bullets left four strike marks on the ground underneath where his head lay, outlined in chalk afterwards by security teams.

All four were inside the markings - three grouped together at the top of the outline and one slightly lower.

Mr Patrick McGorry, representing the families of the three dead, gave photographs of the body and the shooting scene to Professor Watson as he stood in the witness box on day three of the inquest into the killings on March 6 of Mairead Farrell, Daniel McCann and Savage.

He asked him in cross-examination: "Bearing in



GIBRALTAR INQUEST

mind the strike marks were within the area designated as the head, it looks as though those bullets were fired into his head as he lay there."

Professor Watson replied: "Yes, that would be reasonable". Mr McGorry asked: "Fired from above?" and Professor Watson replied: "Fired from above him".

Mr McGorry said: "That would be from a gunman firing downwards?", and Professor Watson answered: "Yes".

Mr McGorry asked: "You said the wounds in the back at that stage would have pretty well done for him?" Professor Watson replied: "Oh yes... either the wounds in the head or in the back".

Professor Watson, questioned by Mr Michael Hucker, representing seven soldiers identified to the court as A to G, agreed that it was possible for someone who had not been shot in the brain to move for up to 30 seconds.

Professor Watson said a

head injury was rapidly lethal, but he knew of a case where even someone shot through the heart had shot back before they died.

Earlier the inquest was told that the three bodies were riddled with bullet wounds, mostly in the head and back. Savage was killed in a hail of gunshots, riddling him with as many as 18 bullets, Professor Watson said.

He agreed with Mr McGorry's use of the word riddled, though he said that he did not like to use such words. He added: "It was like a frenzied attack, you could say".

Asked by Mr McGorry how many bullets hit Savage, he said: "I think 16".

Professor Watson agreed with Mr Felix Pizzarello, the coroner, that this did not include two graze wounds to Savage's shoulder and if those had been caused by bullets the total number could be as many as 18.

Asked how and where Savage had been hit first, he said: "It is very difficult to visualize the scenario here, and where he was when the first shot was fired".

He said that Savage received five shots in the back and agreed he was unlikely to

move or draw a gun after the bullets struck.

Professor Watson spent about 10 minutes detailing all the injuries each of the three received.

He said: "Mairead Farrell was hit by five bullets to the face and neck and three in the back. Those three tore into her body and pulped her heart and liver", he said.

He said in answer to questions from the coroner: "It suggests that when this person received these injuries to the face she must either have had her entire body, or at least part of her body, turned towards the shooters."

"I have no proof but a reasonable explanation would be that the person received the shots to the face while facing the shooter, fell away, and received the three in the back."

He said he thought it was more likely to have happened in that order than the other way around.

Professor Watson said: "Danny McCann was shot twice in the head and twice in the back. The two in the back went up through his chest and again caused extensive pulping before going out the other side."

"One shot went through the



Professor Alan Watson, a pathologist, arriving for the inquest in Gibraltar yesterday.

head and caused extensive damage to the brain. The other wound to the head was around the jaw - but the bullet did not go right in."

He said that it was most likely this bullet was either a ricochet or had gone through Farrell before hitting him.

He told the coroner he believed McCann, like Farrell, was shot in the head before

being shot in the back.

The 11 wounds to Farrell, which Professor Watson outlined, did not necessarily match the number of bullets fired because some were exit wounds.

Professor Watson added: "Sean Savage had considerably more damage with regard to his injuries. He had

been shot five times in the head, five in the back of the chest and in the left leg and right arm.

"There were wounds to the left cheek, left side of neck, left eyebrow, left frontal area of the scalp, left temple - where a piece of bullet was still lying - right side of the head and the top of the scalp."

Professor Watson agreed under cross-examination by Mr McGorry that, in the case of gunshot wounds, it was highly recommended that X-rays should be taken.

He disclosed that X-ray facilities in the mortuary of the Royal Naval Hospital in Gibraltar were not available.

He told the inquest: "I was not impressed with the post-mortem room. Some of the equipment was poor."

Professor Derrick Pounder, Professor of Forensic Medicine at the University of Dundee, who was called as a witness by Mr McGorry, also said Savage was shot while he was on the ground.

Mr Hucker, for the soldiers, asked Professor Pounder: "If somebody is shot rapidly, and the body then started to twist one way and then the other, falling backwards and then falling to the ground at the same time, with two people firing some 15 shots into him, would not the wounds described here match up with that scenario?"

Professor Pounder replied: "Not entirely. No." He added: "In relation to the head wounds, the strike marks indicated on the photograph fall within the chalk marks around the body. The three strike marks on the left side of the head correspond with three wounds to the head. They must have been inflicted when either the head was on the ground, or very close to the ground."

The hearing was adjourned until today.

Postal dispute

Lawyers to set up collection system

By Peter Evans, Edward Gorman and David Sapsted

Law Society branches throughout the country are to organize private mail collections to prevent a breakdown of the conveyancing system.

The postal strike has threatened property transactions because solicitors are unable to obtain search results from the Land Charges Registry or district land registries.

Without search results, building societies and banks will not release mortgage funds, and completions cannot take place.

Secretaries of all 127 local law societies in England and Wales have now been asked to arrange for the collection of mail from the registries, so that documents can be picked up from a central point by firms of solicitors.

Britdoc Ltd, a document exchange company handling 86 million items a year, is also being used by legal firms and members of the professions to correspond with each other.

As the postal strike continued yesterday, staff working in defiance of the Union of Communications Workers spoke of an atmosphere of intimidation and fear at London's Mount Pleasant sorting office, one of the country's biggest.

They said they had been subjected to verbal abuse and taunts of being "traitors".

"I am afraid", said one strike-breaker, who asked not to be named. "But I have financial commitments to my family and I must fulfil my obligations."

Country starts to feel the depth of the crisis

Services and organizations yesterday revealed that the strike was having a more significant impact on them:

Charities

Y Care International, the YMCA's world development charity, said that hundreds of lives could be lost because the public were unable to make postal donations to its Bangladesh flood appeal. It has set up a "hotline" (01-936 9036) to receive credit-card donations.

Organizers of the Sportsaid pop concert in Sheffield on Sunday feared the event could flop. Only 7,000 tickets have been sold for an event expected to attract 40,000 people.

Save the Children Fund said it was "very concerned" that its Bangladesh appeal, launched last night, would be affected by the dispute.

Medicine

Blood Transfusion Centres appealed to the Post Office to deliver blood donor appointment cards amid fears that supplies could run out. Mr David Stephenson, donor services manager at North Western regional transfusion centre, said that stocks could be reduced by 75 per cent if they had to rely on factories and industry.

"If this happens we will have to start rationing supplies to hospitals by the end of next week. Routine operations, such as hip replacements will have to be cancelled."

Employment

Staff at the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Centre at Swansea may be sent home from next week if the strike continues. About 300 to 400 employees could be affected at first with up to 1,000 laid off if the stoppage goes on indefinitely.

Credit cards

Companies said that, if the dispute continued the sending of bills would have to be suspended, though card-holders would still have to pay interest on money owed.

Military mail

The Ministry of Defence introduced an emergency system to ensure mail links were preserved between servicemen overseas and their families. Letters, but not parcels, may be handed in at any military establishment, including careers offices, for delivery.

Business

The British Chambers of Commerce said the dispute was proving an "inconvenience rather than a disaster" to business, mainly because of the alternative communications systems now available, including fax, telex and private delivery services. Small companies, however, continued to face cash-flow problems.

British Telecom

BT yesterday suspended its Telemessage service to all parts of the UK except in London, where a special courier service was being used, and in Northern Ireland, where the Belfast office remained the only key sorting centre in the UK working normally. The company reported a big increase in its international telegram business.

VAT

The national VAT headquarters in Southend was considering whether to waive default surcharges for traders making late payments.

Mail order

All the leading mail order companies have signed contracts with private companies for the distribution of goods. The bulk of orders are already phoned through. Freemans, the Bradford mail-order company, temporarily laid off 85 part-time workers because of the strike.

Football pools

Littlewoods, the largest pools company, said the majority of its clients would not face problems because 95 per cent of coupons were handled by its own collection and delivery service.



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Language teachers shortage 'threat' to national curriculum

By Douglas Broom, Education Reporter

Unless the Government establishes a national plan for recruiting modern language teachers the new National Curriculum for state schools in England and Wales could be in jeopardy, it was claimed yesterday.

Under the curriculum, which is due to be fully operational by 1993, all pupils will be required to study a foreign language up to the age of 16. It has been estimated that an extra 3,000 teachers will be needed to implement the plan.

Mrs Christine Wilding, Secretary of the Joint Council for Language Associations, which represents most modern language teachers, warned yesterday that leaving things to the last minute would lead to lower standards.

"We have got to set up a national plan to increase the number of people coming into modern language teaching if the national curriculum is going to work", she said.

"What we do not want to see are emergency measures which will inevitably lead to

bad language teaching at a time when Britain is beginning to get very good at it.

"There could not be a more crucial time for modern languages in schools, especially with 1992 and the new European internal market approaching."

She called on the Government to designate certain university education departments as "centres of excellence" for the training of teachers in specific languages.

Schools surrounding the universities should be given funds to allow them to add the language in question to their syllabuses so that students could carry out teaching practice locally.

This was particularly important for languages which were not widely taught at present, like Spanish and Russian, she said.

Mrs Wilding also warned against plans currently under discussion for a list of "approved languages" to be taught in schools under the new curriculum. Such a system would exclude ethnic minor-

ity tongues like Urdu and Gujarati. The association had approached Mr Kenneth Baker, the Secretary of State for Education, but he had failed to respond to the call for a national plan.

The Department of Education and Science yesterday said the Government believed the required number of teachers could be found by a combination of re-training existing staff and attracting former teachers back to the profession.

The question of creating centres of excellence was being investigated by the University Grants Committee.

More than 150 schools from England, Wales and Scotland will take part in the second national Festival of Languages at Warwick University next month, it was announced yesterday. The event, on October 15, will also see the presentation of the Young Linguist of the Year Award to one of 20 finalists speaking languages ranging from Irish to Chinese.

Dramatic time for Moscow students

By Andrew Billen



Brian Cox directing Tatiana Teslar (left) and Irina Apeksimova in "The Crucible" (Photograph: Mark Pepper).

The strain of staging Arthur Miller's play *The Crucible* in just three weeks was showing yesterday among 18 drama students from the Moscow Art Theatre School who are now in London.

They are in the first of what is hoped will be a series of cultural exchanges with the Royal Shakespeare Company organized by Brian Cox, one of the company's leading actors. A question and answer session was held yesterday at the RSC rehearsal rooms between the students and Mr Cox and three of the company's directors.

The subjects included the theories of Stanislavsky, the famous Moscow Art Theatre director, and when there would be time for sightseeing.

Frequently, however, the talk returned to *The Crucible*, which the students will present on their return to Moscow on September 26.

"If it is a failure", one of them said, "everyone will think we have just been having a holiday".

Mr Cox, director of the International Foundation for Training in the Arts, replied: "You must trust me. You are leaned on very heavily by your tutors and sometimes over-corrected - you must find an inner freedom."

The company will be seen in a short episode by Brecht at a *Raising the Curtain* gala on September 25 at the Barbican aimed at raising funds for the international exchange programme.

Schools to opt out to thwart closure

By Our Education Reporter

Two single-sex schools in Northamptonshire plan to opt out of local authority control under the new Education Reform Act in an attempt to thwart moves by their local authority to close them.

Parents at the Kettering Boys School and the nearby Southfield Girls School, both with about 750 pupils, are considering applying jointly for grant maintained status.

Northamptonshire council plans to close both to reduce the number of secondary schools in Kettering because of falling rolls. However, if the schools succeed in going their own way, they will provide a big fillip for the "opting out" process, which has been condemned by the Labour Party and teachers' unions.

Parents claim that the two schools have excellent academic records. Mrs Penny

Bradshaw, spokeswoman for a parents action group, said: "The town is growing all the time; 3,000 houses have been built in the past two months alone. It is ridiculous to say that we will need fewer schools."

Mr Andrew Turner, director of the Grant Maintained Trust, a body set up to advise schools on opting out, said last night that if the two schools opted out at the same time there would be nothing to stop them pooling their resources to keep costs down. The Trust had, in the five weeks since it was set up, received more than 300 inquiries from schools, about opting out.

Mr John Fitzpatrick, assistant county education officer for Northamptonshire said the council's reorganization plans would have to be redrawn if the two schools did opt out.

Poll on NUS link

Students at Portsmouth Polytechnic are to vote on a call to sever links between their own students' union and the National Union of Students.

In the first test of student opinion on the issue since the Government launched its inquiry into the role of students' unions in August, 6,500 students at the polytechnic will be balloted.

Conservative backbenchers have called for an end to the

system under which students automatically become NUS members when they enrol at college.

Ending the affiliation of individual students' unions to the NUS would give each student the freedom to choose whether to belong to the union.

Senior national union officials will take part in campus debates in the run-up to the poll on October 25.

Weekend food prices

Succulent lamb proves good buy for freezers

Home-produced lamb is down in price this week. This delicious meat, which is so popular in Europe, is selling at an average of £1.81 a lb for a whole leg and £1.04 for a whole shoulder in butchers' shops.

This could be a good time to put some in the freezer while the meat is still lean and succulent.

At supermarkets last week's low prices are still available and there are also some drastic reductions on chops.

Sainsbury's loin chops are down 30p a lb and rib chops at Tesco are £1.59 a lb.

These prices are generally stable and the best buy is rib of beef on the bone at an average of £1.72 a lb.

Leg of pork, all of good value, is down in price to an average £1.07 a lb, and there are many special offers in supermarkets well worth looking out for.

Other good offers are Presto British pork chops £1.28 a lb, British steak and kidney £1.42 a lb, British roasting beef (boneless chuck) £1.78 a lb, Tesco fresh braising steak £1.78 a lb, fresh pork spare ribs 89p a lb, fresh home produced lamb cutlets £1.59 a lb.

Asda home produced half leg of lamb is £1.85 a lb, home-produced whole and half shoulder 95p a lb, frozen grade A duckling 74p a lb, Sainsbury's whole leg of home produced lamb £1.38 a lb, and whole shoulder of New Zealand lamb 59p a lb.

Safeway, mixed loin and shoulder of pork chops is on sale at £1.28 a lb. Bejam 5lb pack of chicken quarters £3.25, down 34p, and 12 New

Zealand lamb chump chops 99p a lb, down 60p a lb.

Home grown vegetables are abundant and cauliflower at the pick of the week at between 25 and 50p a head.

String beans 60p a lb, primo cabbage 14-26p a lb, broccoli 40-80p a lb, courgettes 25-55p a lb, carrots 10-25p a lb, marrow 20-45p each, and home-grown sweetcorn cobs 15-40p a cob, are all good quality and excellent value.

Supplies of home grown apples are building up and this week Worcester are in the shops for 28-50p a lb as well as discoveries at 30-50p a lb.

French and Italian william pears are 30-55p a lb. English victoria plums are 30-55p, and there are large peaches, 12-30p each and nectarines at 12-25p each.

Soft fruit still in the shops are strawberries (home grown, Dutch and French) 48-70p a half lb, and English and American blueberries 75p a half lb.

There are grapes from many sources such as Greece, Spain, Italy and the US, but the Italia and Thompson varieties are the cheapest.

Kiwi fruit are as little as 14p each in some shops.

Bananas 35p a lb are superb, as are pineapples between 50p and £3 each. There are excellent oranges available from 8p to 25p each.

Salad lovers can choose from hothouse tomatoes at 30-52p a lb, beef tomatoes from 50p a lb, and cherry tomatoes at 60-90 a half lb bag. Round cos, iceberg, and red varieties of lettuce cost from 18-75p. Cucumbers 30-60p each are superb and celery is 35-55p a head.

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British Association for the Advancement of Science

Cancer centres' bad organization blamed for 5,000 deaths a year

By Thomson Prentice, Science Correspondent

About 5,000 a people a year in Britain die unnecessarily from cancer because of the poor organization of treatment centres, a leading specialist said yesterday.

Professor Karol Sikora of the Royal Postgraduate Medical School at Hammersmith Hospital, west London, told the annual meeting of the British Association for the Advancement of Science in Oxford that cancer sufferers had to be "very persistent or just plain lucky" to get the best possible treatment. The best skills and techniques were more likely to be available at larger centres.

He called for a reduction from the present 60 centres to 20 large units staffed by experts and providing the

latest forms of treatment. That would mean that patients would have to travel further for treatment. "But I think this is a fair price to pay because it may give them a better chance of survival and improved quality of life", he said.

About 160,000 people a year died from cancer in Britain. If the patients had expert care about 5,000 of those deaths could be prevented.

He said his proposals were likely to be opposed by many doctors. "Several studies to plan reorganization of London's very haphazard cancer treatment centres have failed by the wayside."

"Some of these centres are dangerously small, consisting of only one or two consultants,

and really represent a tremendous waste of resources."

Although patients and their families obviously preferred to be treated locally, there was growing recognition among doctors that better results could be obtained by concentrating expertise within big centres. "Small is not beautiful when it comes to cancer treatment", Professor Sikora said.

Dr Peter Sadler, of Birkbeck College, London, told delegates that gold and other precious metals may be the vital ingredients in new drugs to treat cancer. Scientists in London have discovered that gold can combat tumours in animals and hope it can be used to treat humans.

Gold is best known in

medicine as a drug to treat arthritis. But Dr Sadler said:

"We have recently discovered some unusual gold compounds which have anti-cancer activity. Our compounds are active against a range of animal cancers but at the moment the toxic side effects appear to be too great for them to enter clinic trials."

Researchers have known for some years that precious metals can play an important role in preventing uncontrolled cell multiplication, which is how cancers develop.

Dr Sadler, a senior researcher in biochemistry, said: "Platinum, one of the world's most expensive metals, has dramatically improved the cure rates for testicular and ovarian cancers. Research

into the potential of other elements such as gold, ruthenium, and titanium, is in its infancy but the signs are encouraging."

Since platinum was first used in Britain 10 years ago in a drug called cisplatin, cure rates for testicular cancer had risen from about 20 per cent to more than 80 per cent. Promising results were also being achieved in the treatments of cancers of the ovaries, head and neck.

A platinum drug had been developed at the Institute of Cancer Research in Sutton, south-west London, which had fewer unpleasant side effects. In West Germany a drug containing titanium was being tested on patients with cancer of the colon.

TV guard dog in the home

By Pearce Wright, Science Editor

The domestic television set will become the home "electronic guard dog" among other things, according to a leading British scientist.

A system that flashes a picture of a visitor at the front door on the corner of the television screen was demonstrated yesterday by Dr Ken Gray, technical director for Thorn-EMI.

He described experimental equipment which included a matchbox sized television camera mounted behind a peep hole on the front door of a house.

The picture of a visitor is relayed automatically to the television set, and the viewer can use the television remote control pad to open the door, or zoom in for a full-screen picture if the person is a stranger. Other security de-

vices to protect the home are part of the development, including a microchip linked to all the electrical appliances, central heating and lighting circuits in the house.

At night, for instance, an infra red beam automatically picks up the approach of a person to the front door, and switches on the porch light to illuminate the visitor.

Dr John Forrest, Director of Engineering for the Independent Broadcasting Authority, showed how higher quality pictures could be received by existing television sets, and demonstrated the future generation of wide-screen format television sets.

He said higher quality pictures - with the equivalent of 1,250-line pictures, compared with the present standard 625-line picture - will come when

direct broadcasting satellite is started next year by the British Satellite Broadcasting company.

He added that it had been thought high-definition television was some way off, but the surge of interest in direct satellite broadcasting to the home was providing a spur, with the introduction of television with large, wide aspect screens and stereo sound.

He said the next big change in television viewing must be the introduction of large wide screens, though they would probably not displace the smaller conventional receiver.

In the future it was likely there would be big screen television for family viewing and a conventional portable set for individual use in bedrooms or kitchens.

Boys 'help girls to solve problems'

By Our Science Correspondent

Girls need boys to help them to solve problems more than boys need girls, a study of primary school children has revealed.

The findings could have important implications for girls' education.

The study involved 60 children aged six and seven years. When they were divided into three groups to work with a computer game, it was discovered that girls paired with boys did better than girls working together, apparently because the boys gave them more confidence.

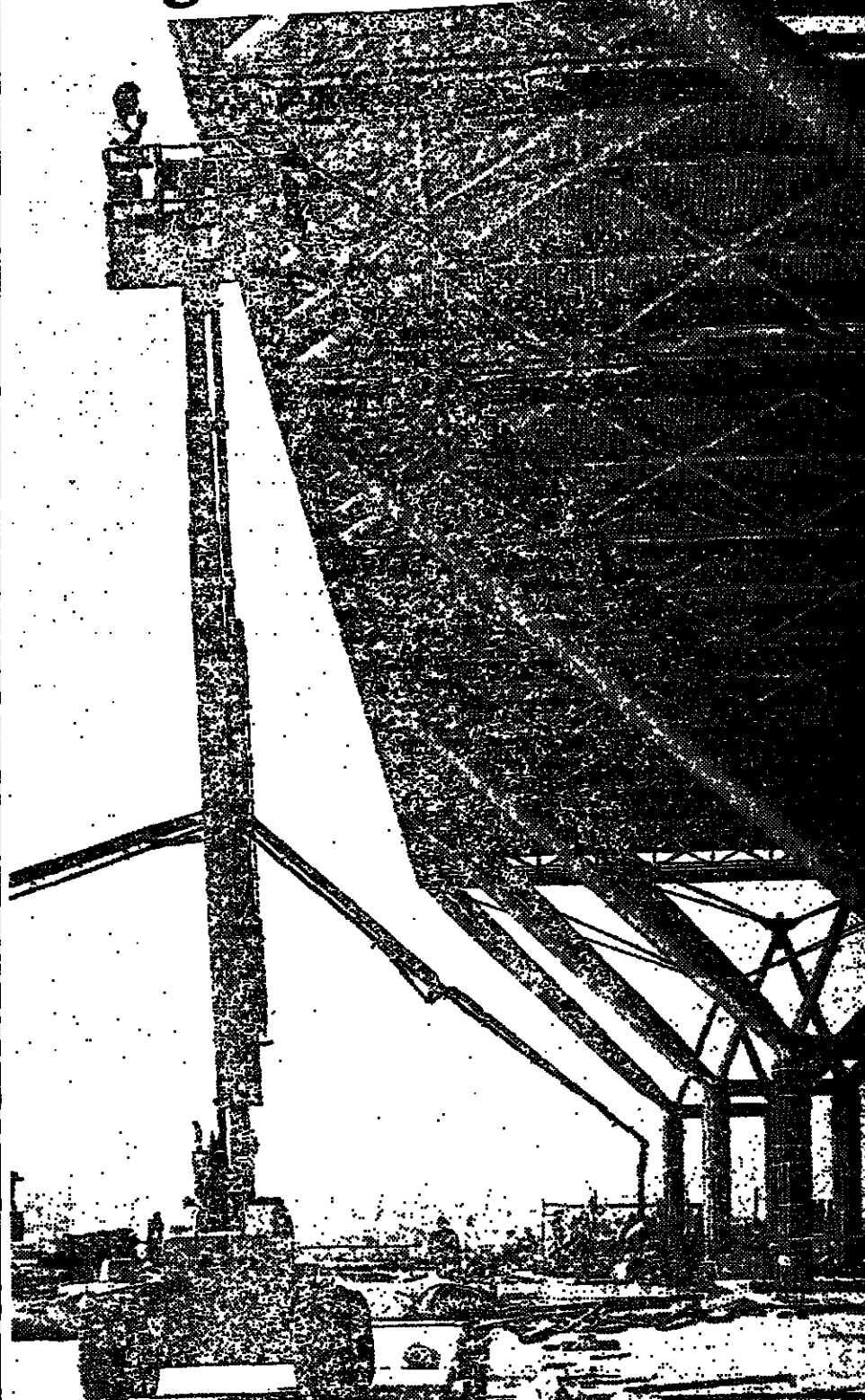
Dr Martin Hughes, of Exeter University, who led the study said: "There is growing concern that girls are at a

serious disadvantage compared with boys as information technology is used increasingly across the school curriculum."

Teenage boys were known to use computers much more than girls and the proportion of female applicants for university computer science courses had fallen from 28 per cent in 1978 to 13 per cent in 1986.

Dr Hughes said the findings "suggest that girls need boys more than boys need girls and this bears directly on the important classroom issue of single-sex grouping as a means of overcoming the disadvantage of girls in maths, science and technology."

High life at Stansted



A workman at Stansted airport in Essex about to start painting the inside of the roof of the new £100 million terminal building, which is on schedule for completion in spring 1991. Workmen use scissor lifts to reach the roof to apply the paint by hand, the wind at that height making spray-painting impossible. The completed terminal will appear to be a single storey building whose height will correspond with local trees. (Photograph: James Morgan)

The Dover ferry dispute

P&O resumes full service

By Rodney Cowton, Transport Correspondent

P&O European Ferries will have its full 11-ship Dover fleet back in service today, seven months after the start of its dispute with the National Union of Seamen.

The Pride of Hythe makes its first sailing on the Dover-Boulogne route.

Mr Graeme Dunlop, managing director, said the market had returned much more rapidly than expected since the ferries first began halting to resume operations last May.

They had recovered their market share in freight and he expected that they would do so in passengers during the autumn.

They carried about 600,000 passengers on the Dover-Calais route last July, and 900,000 on all routes out of Dover, both of which, he says, were roughly similar numbers to last year. The number of passengers rose to more than 1 million during last month on all the Dover services.

The actual cost to the company will not be disclosed until P&O publishes its half-year results on Wednesday.

The gains are clear: a reduction of 22 per cent in the number of officers and roughly 18 per cent in the number of ratings. The pay

The British Sailors' Society, a maritime missionary service, has withdrawn permission for donations to an appeal on behalf of seamen who lost jobs in the P&O Dover ferry dispute to be sent to the society's premises in the town. It did so after advertisements for the Seafarers' Family Appeal appeared in four newspapers this week. Mr Richard Heywood, society appeals and publicity manager, said the society was precluded from associating itself with any political activity and the advertisements were openly political.

structure, which was a rag-bag of pay and allowances, has been streamlined to provide an annual salary, which for ratings ranges between £11,300 and £17,400, plus participation in two bonus schemes.

Drinking on board ship by crews, which was a problem, has been banned.

Mr Dunlop says that the company believes it has achieved a basis on which it could build, and is beginning to consider providing new ships on the Dover-Zeebrugge route.

Whatever the cost of the dispute to P&O European

Ferries proves to be, it has also affected the Dover Harbour Board badly. It is estimated that it will have cost the port about £5 million in loss of revenue.

The number of passengers so far this year passing through the port was 1.6 million below expectations by the end of July, while the number of cars was 240,000 and the number of coaches 16,000 down.

● Dover will be back in the news tomorrow when up to 100 survivors and relatives of those who died in the Zeebrugge disaster demonstrate at the dock gates.

The protest is to mark dissatisfaction with what they see as the Government's lack of resolution in tackling cross-Channel ferry safety. By members of the Herald Families Association, coincides with the first anniversary of the opening of the inquest at Dover on those who died in the capsizing of the Herald of Free Enterprise.

The jury returned an unlawful killing verdict on 187 people. The association says the Government is paying too much attention to ferry companies and focusing on design for future ferries instead of improving existing ones.

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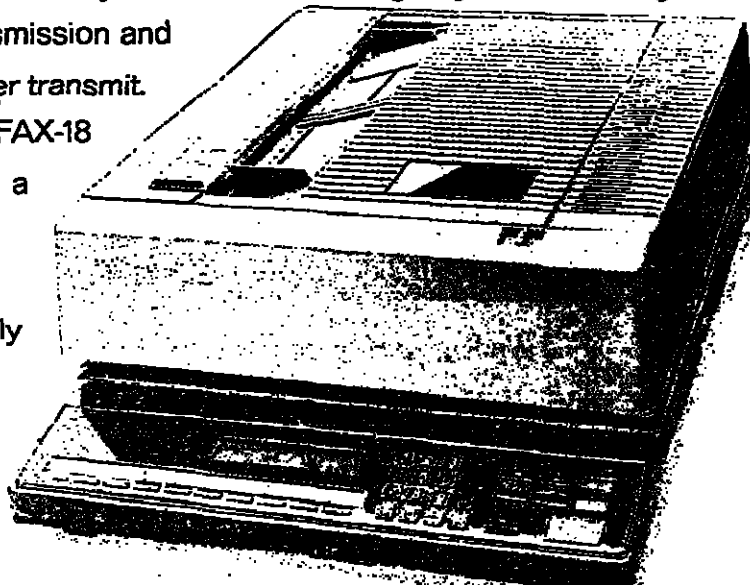
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Soyu

By Our Foreign Staff

An old computer command reserve data bank, left over from joint three months ago, caused engines on a Soviet spacecraft to shut off unexpectedly as it returned to earth on Tuesday. Mission control revealed yesterday.

The return to earth on Wednesday of the Soyuz TM-5, with Soviet cosmonaut Colonel Vladimir Khov and Afghan cosmonaut Abdul Ahad Ahmad, was delayed by almost 12 hours when the spacecraft's engine failed to fire for the required time.

The return from the orbiting space station, Mir, was also

Bush vs Dukakis the Jew

From Mobsin Al

The US presidential candidates, Vice-President George Bush and Governor Michael Dukakis, competing for the important American Jewish vote have pledged that they would oppose any Palestinian entity which was not acceptable to the close allies of the United States - Israel.

As Mr Bush and Mr Dukakis tried to outbid each other in campaign pledges before a convention of the Jewish service organization.

B'nai B'rith, in Baltimore on Wednesday a new public opinion poll showed Mr Bush taking a clear lead in the November election race.

A Washington Post-ABC News poll completed on Tuesday showed that Mr Bush continued to lead Mr Dukakis by 51 to 43 per cent. This was a big gain from the end of a big gain from the end of when polls showed Mr Bush leading Mr Bush by points.

At the B'nai B'rith convention, Mr Bush made very clear that he was opposed to any independent Palestinian state for a very simple reason, he said: "Such a state would be a threat to the security of Israel and of Jordan, which is essential to any lasting settlement."

He added: "My administration would not support the creation of any Palestinian entity that would jeopardize the security of our ally, Israel." But Mr Bush

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Soyuz threatened by old mission data

By Our Foreign Staff

An old computer command in a reserve data bank, left over from a joint Soviet-Bulgarian space mission three months ago, caused the engines on a Soviet spacecraft to shut off unexpectedly as it was returning to earth on Tuesday, mission control revealed yesterday.

The return to earth on Wednesday of the Soyuz TM-5, with Soviet cosmonaut Colonel Vladimir Lyakhov and Afghan cosmonaut Colonel Abdul Ahad Mohmand on board, was delayed by almost 24 hours when the spacecraft's engines failed to fire for the required time.

The return from the orbiting space station, Mir, was aborted

twice. Experts had attributed the sudden power shut-off to the fact that the computer was not re-programmed by mission control outside Moscow after the first failed attempt to land.

But unidentified specialists at mission control told the daily newspaper, *Trud*, that an old command from the Soviet-Bulgarian mission to Mir in June had inexplicably jumped into the programme of the Soviet-Afghan flight.

The specialists said computer programmers were not to blame for the error, since they were not supposed to check the reserve data bank.

The specialists explained that there could be "blank spots" in the

computer that even its creators did not know about.

The cosmonauts yesterday complained to Soviet and Afghan reporters at the Baikonur Space Centre, near the landing site, of cramped quarters, food and water shortages, and equipment problems.

The cosmonauts said they had only 105 cubic feet of accommodation and had to remain in their seats on their backs — the same position as for a launch. They spent 26 hours in the tiny capsule.

The cosmonauts had an emergency supply of food and water, but decided not to use it until absolutely necessary, Tass said.

"During the first landing attempt, undertaken on September 6, every-

thing went as scheduled," Tass quoted Colonel Lyakhov as saying.

But 30 seconds before the engine start-up, there occurred a disruption in the operation of the infra-red vertical sensor: the computer was unable to judge whether the spacecraft was correctly orientated, and the engine was shut off.

The cosmonaut said a second attempt to fire the engine was made later, but that it slowed the capsule too much and the burn was terminated.

Colonel Lyakhov, standing next to the capsule, said on television on Wednesday that he and Colonel Mohmand had wanted to make a third attempt at landing on Tuesday, but that the craft might have

touched down outside Soviet territory.

Also at Baikonur yesterday, a Soviet official announced that a joint French-Soviet space mission to Mir will begin on November 21 and last until December 21.

The French member of the crew will be Colonel Jean-Loup Chrétien, France's first man in space.

In Peking, official newspapers reported yesterday that China had successfully launched a weather satellite aboard a new generation of rocket.

And in Kourou, French Guiana, technicians were preparing last night to launch an Ariane rocket that will put two American communication satellites into orbit.

WORLD ROUNDUP

Reagan summit proposal fell flat

President Reagan planned a grand farewell summit of world leaders to crown his last year in office, but no one wanted to go. (Our Foreign Staff writes.) West German government sources said yesterday that the President had invited leaders of the seven industrial democracies to Washington on September 27, but after some — including Mr Kohl and Mrs Thatcher — indicated they had other commitments, he decided to invite leaders from a broader range of countries to a lunch in New York instead.

Mr Reagan is also to hold a series of meetings with other leaders in New York after he addresses the United Nations on September 26. But an American official said yesterday: "You can forget the word summit." The President would have individual bilateral talks and larger-scale meetings with foreign officials.

A Downing Street spokesman said last night that when President Reagan was here last year Mrs Thatcher accepted an invitation to go to Washington in November. The President is due to meet President Mitterrand of France in Washington on September 29.

Churbanov guilty plea

Moscow (AP) — Mr Yuri Churbanov, son-in-law of the late Soviet leader, Leonid Brezhnev, pleaded guilty yesterday to charges of abusing his office as an Interior Ministry official but denied the capital crime of accepting bribes. On the fourth day of the trial of nine co-defendants, Judge Mikhail Marov, an army major-general, asked Mr Churbanov if he understood the charges against him.

"Yes, they were understood," Mr Churbanov replied. "I admit my guilt in abuse of office but don't admit my guilt in receiving bribes."

Summons for Chun

Seoul — A South Korean parliamentary committee said yesterday it intended to summon former President Chun Doo Hwan and his wife on corruption charges immediately after the Olympics. The move is expected to be resisted by the Government (Gavin Bell writes).

The deeply unpopular Mr Chun has been invited to attend the opening ceremony of the Games, despite fears that he may be jeered by spectators. Some ruling party officials said privately they hoped he would stay away.

Trial marriage

Jerusalem — Miss Hadas Lahav, a prosecution witness in the trial of four left-wing journalists charged with treason, yesterday refused to testify on the grounds that she had secretly married one of the defendants, Mr Assaf Adiv (David Bernstein writes).

Miss Lahav was arrested for contempt of court when she still refused to testify after the prosecution had separated Mr Adiv's trial from that of the three other defendants, Miss Michal Schwartz, Mrs Ronni Ben-Efrat and her former husband, Mr Yaacov Ben-Efrat.

Kohl gives evidence

Roma (AFP) — Chancellor Kohl of West Germany and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister, testified behind closed doors yesterday at the trial of electricity company executives charged with buying political influence to promote nuclear power, court sources said.

The VEW AG men are accused of giving more than DM2 million (£636,900) to Herr Kohl's Christian Democratic Union and Herr Genscher's Free Democratic Party between 1976 and 1979. The politicians refused to comment.

PLO seeks UN rule

Mr Farouk Kaddoumi, a Palestine Liberation Organization leader, yesterday called for the United Nations to assume temporary responsibility for the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip (Our Foreign Staff writes).

The political chief spoke at the Non-Aligned Movement foreign ministers' conference in Nicosia. Mr Ali Alatas, the Indonesian Foreign Minister, said that his country could and should take on the chairmanship of the 101-nation movement for the next four years. However, conference spokesman Mr Nicos Agathocleous said earlier that Indonesia and Nicaragua had withdrawn from contention.

Bush vies with Dukakis for the Jewish vote

From Mohsin Ali, Washington

The US presidential candidates, Vice-President George Bush and Governor Michael Dukakis, competing for the important American Jewish vote have pledged that they would oppose any Palestinian entity which was not acceptable to the close ally of the United States — Israel.

As Mr Bush and Mr Dukakis tried to outbid each other in campaign pledges before a convention of the Jewish service organization,



B'nai B'rith, in Baltimore on Wednesday a new public opinion poll showed Mr Bush taking a clear lead in the November election race.

A Washington Post-ABC News poll completed on Tuesday showed that Mr Bush continued to lead Mr Dukakis by 51 to 43 per cent. This was a big gain from the end of July when polls showed Mr Dukakis leading Mr Bush by 17 points.

At the B'nai B'rith convention, Mr Bush made very clear that he was opposed to an independent Palestinian state for a very simple reason. He said: "Such a state would be a threat to the security of Israel and of Jordan, which is crucial to any lasting settlement. It would also be contrary to America's interests."

He added: "My administration would not support the creation of any Palestinian entity that would jeopardize the security of our strategic ally, Israel." But Mr Bush said

that peace would also not be achieved by "annexation of the territories by Israel or their permanent control by military occupation."

He avoided specific comment on Israel's handling of the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories. But he said that "the Palestinians must be involved at every step in the negotiations. There will be no peace without them. It's their choice to help end the misery into which this region has been plunged."

Governor Dukakis, in his speech, said that he would "never recognize a unilateral declaration of a Palestinian state or government in exile," as is reportedly being considered by some Palestinians. He also pledged to refuse to sell weapons that would threaten the security of Israel to any nation.

He declared that one of his first acts as President would be to appoint a special envoy with the instructions to "use every ounce of your energy to convince Arab leaders to negotiate peace with Israel." Mr Dukakis emphasized that no settlement that was unacceptable to Israel would be acceptable to the United States.

Their speeches to the B'nai B'rith convention coincided with the disclosure that President Reagan, in a new attempt to revive the stalled Middle East peace process, had invited the Israeli and Egyptian Foreign Ministers, Mr Shimon Peres and Dr Ahmed Esmat Abdel-Meguid, to meet him in New York on September 26, when he is there to address the United Nations General Assembly session.

Damp end to anti-Pinochet protests



Chilean riot police using a water cannon against demonstrators outside Santiago central library. In other protests Catholic activists demonstrated against President Pinochet by blowing bugles and whistles outside a church where the Chilean leader was attending a memorial service for five soldiers who died two years ago in a failed assassination attempt.

Opposition jeers Botha unity plea

From Ray Kennedy Johannesburg

An emotional appeal for Afrikaner unity by President Botha was greeted yesterday with undisguised glee and derision by the extreme right-wing Conservative Party, the official parliamentary Opposition.

With his eyes brimming with tears, Mr Botha told a public meeting in Bloemfontein, the Orange Free State capital, on Wednesday night that in his view there were only two people who could play a decisive role in uniting Afrikaners. "The two people are Dr A. P. Treurnicht (the

Conservative Party leader) and myself."

"I extend a hand of goodwill to him... we must celebrate together," Afrikanerdom is celebrating this year the 150th anniversary of the Great Trek. A commemorative ox-wagon has set out from Cape Town on a slow haul to Pretoria with government blessing.

Another trek, backed by the Conservative Party, is due to set off next month. It is a moot question which one will draw the biggest crowds when they reach their destination in December.

Politicians of all sides were stunned yesterday by Mr Botha's appeal and said they

interpreted it as a sign that he has lost his political nerve.

Conservative Party members interpreted it as a huge political blunder on the eve of nationwide municipal elections.

One senior Conservative said: "The first thought that came to mind was the man charged with the murder of his parents who pleaded for clemency because he was an orphan."

"The Conservative Party has nothing personally against Mr Botha, so this is not about personalities holding hands. There will not be Afrikaner unity until P.W. Botha abandons his ideas of power shar-

ing and returns to a policy of white self-determination."

Mr Colin Eglin, parliamentary leader of the liberal Progressive Federal Party, said he found Mr Botha's offer "amazing, to say the least."

CAPE TOWN: Archbishop Desmond Tutu yesterday openly defied the South African Government for the second time in a week by making another call for a boycott of upcoming municipal elections — an offence under the present state of emergency (AFP reports). He was speaking to some 2,000 students and workers at Cape Town's mixed-race University of the Western Cape.

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Militant Serbs defy federal demand to end demonstrations

From Dassa Trevisan, Belgrade

The Yugoslav Republic of Serbia has rejected an order from the country's Communist Party to put an end to public demonstrations which, according to the federal authorities, are endangering security.

In an official statement, the Presidium of the Serbian Communist Party and the Serbian State Presidency said that by issuing such an order, the federal leadership of the party was making itself a force opposed to the will of people.

This open rift between Serbia and the federal party could have serious consequences, as it sets a precedent for republics to defy federal decisions.

The demonstrations are in protest against the alleged intimidation of Serbs and Montenegrins in the province of Kosovo by the ethnic Albanian majority, and in support of greater Serbian control of the province.

Behind it all is Mr Slobodan Milosevic, the Serbian Communist Party leader who has introduced a new style of leadership. He is appealing to the popular sentiments of his fellow Serbs who are dissatisfied because, eight years after

the Albanian ethnic riots in the Kosovo region, Serbs are still being discriminated against.

Mr Milosevic has launched a campaign to place Serbia's two provinces - Vojvodina, where the Serbs are in the majority but where there is also a sizeable Hungarian minority, and Kosovo, where the Albanians are in the majority - under direct Serbian rule.

This aim, however, is meeting fierce opposition from the local politicians who suspect that this is a step towards stripping both regions of their autonomy.

Answering the federal leadership, Mr Milosevic asked how protests by Serbs in Kosovo could be called dangerous when Yugoslavia was threatened by Albanian separatist activities.

The Serbian demonstrations are continuing and the number of those attending them is growing. Their demands are becoming more militant; demonstrators are now calling for the imposition of martial law and the provision of arms to fight Albanian separatists. The Serbian

President, Mr Petar Gracanin, has said that Serbia intends to set up its own riot police unit to join the 400-strong federal one which has been stationed in Kosovo since last autumn. In order to do so it needs not only the consent of the regional authorities but also a consensus on the federal level.

There are also plans to organize demonstrations in Belgrade which, apart from being the federal capital, is also the capital of Serbia.

The Mayor of Belgrade said that an estimated 700,000 people were expected to attend but that no square in the city was large enough for such a gathering.

The Yugoslav Communist Party's Central Committee is due to meet later this month. But the federal leadership is unlikely to impose sanctions on the Serbian Communist leaders at this time, when they have so much support.

● VIENNA: Mr Branko Milutinovic, the Yugoslav Prime Minister, will hold official talks outside Vienna during a visit to Austria this month to avoid meeting President Waldheim, a government aide said yesterday.

Charities express alarm at conditions for Vietnamese

Some refugees could get out of Hong Kong camps

From Chris Pomeroy, Hong Kong

Le Tuan Hung keeps a watchful eye on his four-year old daughter looking through the window at the sunshine outside she cannot play in.

"I really didn't know," he says surveying his latest place of incarceration, a disused industrial building considered unfit for human habitation, according to the local office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

"Even if I did know, I wouldn't have stayed in Vietnam," he adds. Facing increasing international criticism over unilateral moves this June to tighten its policy on Vietnamese asylum-seekers, the Hong Kong Government released details this week that will eventually allow some long-stay refugees a chance to step outside the camp gates.

However, critics noted that the improvements could take many months to materialize and that the worst camps might remain in use for another year.

Back in 1982, the Hong Kong Government forestalled rising refugee arrivals by confining newcomers in special "closed camps".

For five years the arrival figures fell. When a fresh

influx of Vietnamese doubled the refugee population this year to 16,000, the Government acted again.

From June 16, new arrivals have been denied automatic refugee status and reclassified instead as illegal immigrants awaiting eventual repatriation to Vietnam.

In the Government's eyes, the stricter policy has worked. Arrivals fell to 2,375 in August and just 220 so far this month, compared with 5,500 for July.

However, the changes have left most of Hong Kong's 25,174 Vietnamese potentially worse off.

The longest-stayers, the 2,700 pre-1982 arrivals, are held in "open camps" in urban areas. Many of these are children born in Hong Kong.

The largest group, previously held in minimum security prisons designated "closed camps" under the pre-June policy, have all been moved to make way for the post-June arrivals, now classified as illegal immigrants.

These 13,100 have been decanted into reopened camps and temporary accommodation, including the San Yick industrial building, often in much poorer conditions.

The third group, the 9,353 "illegal immigrants" who

have entered Hong Kong waters since the overnight policy change on June 16, are now housed in the "closed camp" security centres in remote areas of the colony.

The temporary centres, off-limits to the press until yesterday, have been criticized as a disgrace to the British flag.

A fortnight ago, the head of the Australian Refugee Council, Major-General Paul Cullen, said there was "no prison in the world that has such bad conditions" as the San Yick building, with 4,000 people on six floors. UNHCR officials privately described an overloaded drainage system backing up sewage into the washroom.

Improvements have been made, yet the physical conditions in San Yick are sickeningly tough. About 650 people live on each floor in three-tier bare-boarded bunks, two to a bunk 5ft wide. In this environment, parents try to bring up nearly 700 under-fives and 800 secondary age children.

"People who have been there have been praying that the drains can't cope and the place will flood with sewage so that that closes it down rather than a few suicides," says Oxfam's convenor in Hong Kong, Mr Chris Bale.



Two of the Vietnamese refugee children living in the San Yick building view the world through a barred window.

Whiff of peace on Verdun battlefield

From Philip Jacobson, Verdun

People came from towns and cities all over the world to talk about peace on the spot where one of this century's most terrible battles was fought.

With Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, they prayed for the dead at a simple but moving ceremony yesterday at the great ossuary of Verdun, where the bones of 150,000 French and German soldiers are laid in vaults.

Then they emerged into the bright sunlight illuminating the immaculately tended military cemetery where still more victims of war lie buried.

For Señor Pérez de Cuéllar, where else could it be but Verdun to present medals to 58 mayors from communities nominated by the UN as "messengers of peace"?

"This tragic symbol of the absurdity of war," he called it, a place where the ground once had been drenched in blood, but which was now host to a gathering dedicated to the prevention of future wars.

Where else but Verdun to establish the new World Centre for Peace, Liberty and Human Rights?

Among those invited to yesterday's ceremony were the mayors of Brighton and Sheffield, Ms Patricia Hawks and Mrs Phyllis Smith. Both were in fine form, bubbling with enthusiasm about their encounters with opposite numbers from Abidjan, Arnhem, Kiev, Madrid, Warsaw and

Yokohama. In their different ways, they explained, Brighton and Sheffield had become closely involved with an organization that was originally known as the World Union of Martyred Cities, Coventry among them, but had then spread its wings.

Behind them, a French Army band was rattling through *La Marseillaise* at a brisk pace as Señor Pérez de Cuéllar placed a wreath on the memorial to all the dead of the 10-month long battle that in 1916 claimed 700,000 lives.

Not far away, a bronze plaque commemorates the day in September 1984, when President Mitterrand of France and Chancellor Kohl of West Germany came to Verdun to join hands in an historic gesture of reconciliation.

"Now we want our city to become something more than a place of relics and graves," declared Verdun's energetic mayor, M Jacques Barat-Dupont. "It's time to commemorate respect for life, and we hope here that Verdun can become host to peace movements all over the world."

As Señor Pérez de Cuéllar later said in his address, there is already a welcome whiff of peace in the air these days, from Afghanistan and the Gulf to the Western Sahara and southern Africa. "The UN has demonstrated that replacing the force of arms with diplomacy is not only desirable but also possible."



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Savimbi even a

Government soldiers then sign of concern as they on one of the grimy benches on Luanda's fringed Marginal Avenue the edge of the city's

The word "Savimbi" sloshed on the beach in paint, has been there for 13 years, daubed by the rebel Unita National Union for the Total Liberation of Angola in the last figure fighting in the of Portuguese colonialism

But the man himself, much-fearred and well-known threat to the Government, President and head of the MPLA (Movimento Popular Libertador de Angola), is still keeping the country war for the foreseeable even if the foreign advisers were to leave

The negotiations that in Brazzaville yesterday African withdrawal, gola has lifted the protection around the headquarters in southern

Success at Brazzaville, later, would open South Africa and support for Unita's independence would leave 1,000 miles from South Africa. In the north, Angola, Unita is still from the United through Zaire, and been no sign of stopped. With a US election offing, however, the

Britain's new

EEC membership way to woe back to th

By Andrew McEwen

For 36 years until May year, Britain's relations with Malta slithered from opportunity to another decline of one of Britain's valuable relationships. Mediterranean was a foreign policy failure long-term implications. Against that background the first official visit of Eddie Fenech Adams, relatively new Prime Minister, calls for careful handling arrives next week proposals which Mrs will not find easy. But given the importance Malta's geographical po

● The first wrong move came as early as 1951

he can expect a sympathetic hearing. Past disputes were heavily confused by military clashes with Mr Minnotti, the socialist Prime Minister, that people hate former much Britain lost. From Treaty of Paris of 1814 brought it into the British Empire, until after the World War, Malta was Britain's key strategic port in the Mediterranean. That came to an end when the government was proved right during the critical years between 1942 and 1943. But for the courage and loyalty of the Maltese people, Churchill's decision to hold the island could not have worked. Its importance was proved after the war, but gradually given less emphasis. By the time Dr Fenech Adams came to power 10 months ago, it appeared the English had left behind their language, the Grand Cross on the flag, and telephone boxes, a further vestige of the era being membership of the Commonwealth. Adopting a policy of alignment, Malta closed a phase-out arrangement in London under which the British forces left in 1979. Although constitutionally neutral, it was by now drawn towards Moscow and Leningrad. This reversal of the West's fortunes was by no means inevitable by-product of transition to independence. It stemmed much more from understandable exasperation of British ministers in the dealings with Maltese leaders. The first wrong move came as early as 1951 when British Nationalist Prime Minister Dr Borg Olivier, for dominating the 1956 election on a platform of "Be British, vote Minnotti" was then the leading Maltese politician and was "integrated" with the United Kingdom, with its own MP, a Minister. Sir Anthony Eden reacted quite favourably but the talks ran into diffi

Angolan peace talks

Savimbi is able to fight on even after troops pull out

From Jan Raath, Luanda

Government soldiers show no sign of concern as they lounge on one of the grimy concrete benches on Luanda's palm-fringed Marginal Avenue on the edge of the city's oily bay.

The word "Savimbi", sashed on the bench in black paint, has been there for about 13 years, dubbed when Dr Jonas Savimbi, the leader of the rebel Unita (National Union for the Total Independence of Angola) was a heroic figure fighting in the last days of Portuguese colonialism.

But the man himself is a much-feared and very grave threat to the Government of Mr Eduardo dos Santos, the President and head of the ruling MPLA (Movement for the Popular Liberation of Angola), and is fully capable of keeping the country racked by war for the foreseeable future, even if all foreign troops and advisers were to leave.

The negotiations that began in Brazzaville yesterday bode ill for Dr Savimbi. The South African withdrawal from Angola has lifted the wall of protection around Jamba, his headquarters in south-east.

Success at Brazzaville, or later, would demand that South Africa end all military support for Unita. Subsequent independence for Namibia would leave Jamba about 500 miles from South Africa.

In the north and west of Angola, Unita is fed weaponry from the United States through Zaire, and there has been no sign of this being stopped.

With a US election in the offing, however, the situation

is fluid. A successful trip by Dr Savimbi to Washington in June was followed by a series of embarrassing snubs in Europe, including Britain.

Zaire has also become an unknown factor for Dr Savimbi. For 10 days in May, a US Rapid Deployment Force was reported to have held manoeuvres dubbed "Operation Flintlock 88" with the Zairean Army in Shaba province, near Angola's western border.

The Luanda Government had no doubt this was a cover for a large escalation in deliveries of supplies. The US has also been reported as setting up supply routes around the Zairean town of Matadi on the northern Angolan border.

Mr dos Santos has a considerable weapon against Zaire. The north-eastern province of Uige in Angola holds about 20,000 Zairean refugees, diplomatic sources here report, with strongly organized political and military structures under the Katangese movement that wreaked havoc in Shaba in 1978.

Mr dos Santos met President Mobutu of Zaire for five hours in Brazzaville in July, diplomatic sources said, adding that it was likely the possibility of unleashing the Katangese was raised as a threat against further aid to Unita.

Any accommodation with Dr Savimbi would place Mr dos Santos in an uncomfortable position. Both men are Protestant-educated, but the charismatic Dr Savimbi towers over the withdrawn, cautious Mr dos Santos, and would clearly endanger the President's political survival.

Dr Savimbi has repeatedly stated his willingness to talk to the MPLA, but observers dismiss this as "public relations". Unita is reported to have regrouped in the north as a result of the arms build-up,

and to have taken firm control of the countryside in the northern provinces, restricting Luanda's army to the towns.

Unita has long held sway in the rural areas in the centre of the country. In a hitherto unreported attack on a locomotive rail convoy on its way from the port of Benguela to Huambo City it destroyed 11 locomotives.

The attack dashed hopes for the success of a conference scheduled next year to attract investors to fund the rehabilitation of the largely unusable railway line which runs 700 miles to the Zairean border and into the Zambian Copperbelt area.

In the south, the presence of Cuban troops fighting the South Africans has driven Unita out of a large swathe of territory, but the Cubans maintain that Dr Savimbi is a problem for the Angolans, and they do not mount operations against Unita.

Be that as it may, diplomatic sources believe that even if all foreign support for Unita were withdrawn, it would be unlikely to damage the organization severely for some time. It has enormous caches of weaponry buried in the countryside, and its well-organized guerrillas are regarded as capable of continuing to fight a campaign almost indefinitely.

What is certain is that the 13 years since independence have brought little more than misery to most of the population, on whichever side of the political divide they stand, and more is to come.

Namibia plan in doubt

Brazzaville (Reuters) — The South African negotiator, Mr Neil van Heerden, said here yesterday that it might be difficult to start implementing a United Nations plan for independence for Namibia on November 1, as planned.

"It's beginning to look quite tough," he told reporters on the second day of peace talks here involving South Africa, Angola and Cuba. But Mr van Heerden said that the three parties had not yet reached the point at which they would consider dropping the November 1 target date, set at earlier talks.

The US-mediated talks were called to agree to a timetable for withdrawing Cuban troops from Angola, but became bogged down on Wednesday over a reported Cuban military build-up. The parties need to solve the Cuban withdrawal issue before they can go ahead with the Namibian independence plan.

Mr van Heerden said the negotiations were continuing and could stretch into a third day.

Kitted out for a new shuttle



The crew of the space shuttle Discovery, wearing newly designed orange pressurized suits, stepping out for a practice countdown at Kennedy Space Centre, Florida, yesterday. The five astronauts earlier inspected Discovery

and practised an emergency escape from the pad. They are due to be launched in the last week of the month, but a firm date will not be set until about September 14. The commander is Captain Rick Hauck, left, of the US Navy.

Sikhs' raid on train kills ten passengers

Delhi — Fifteen Sikh raiders with Ak-47 rifles stormed a train near Taranagar, 18 miles from Amritsar, on Wednesday night, killing eight Hindu and two Sikh passengers. Thirteen were injured (Kuldip Nayar writes).

The guerrillas shouted pro-Khalistan (Sikh independent state) slogans.

Left surrender

Manila (AFP) — A total of 76,729 communist guerrillas and sympathizers have surrendered in the past 10 months, the official Philippine News Agency reported.

Odinga held

Nairobi (Reuters) — The Kenyan Government has again detained Mr Raila Odinga, the son of former Vice-President Oginga Odinga, on security grounds.

Firestorm loss

Yellowstone National Park (AP) — Two men who refused to leave their home before flames engulfed it were missing after a firestorm destroyed 17 buildings near Old Faithful geyser.

Politician dies

Athens (AP) — Spyros Theotokis, aged 80, the Foreign Minister from 1955 to 1956 and founder of a right-wing party, died on Tuesday after a heart attack. Obituary page 18

Sailors safe

Madrid — Two Britons, Mr Colin Arthur Hunt, aged 39, from London, and Mr James Lomas, aged 46, were recovering in Almeria in south-eastern Spain after their yacht sank in the Mediterranean.

Britain's neglected links

EEC membership way to woo Malta back to the West

By Andrew McEwen, Diplomatic Correspondent

For 36 years until May last year, Britain's relations with Malta slithered from one lost opportunity to another. The decline of one of Britain's most valuable relationships in the Mediterranean was a serious foreign policy failure with long-term implications.

Against that background the first official visit by Dr Eddie Fenech Adami, Malta's relatively new Prime Minister, calls for careful handling. He arrives next week with proposals which Mrs Thatcher will not find easy to accept. But given the importance of Malta's geographical position,

The first wrong move came as early as 1951

he can expect a sympathetic hearing.

Past disputes were so heavily confused by personality clashes with Mr Dom Mintoff, the socialist former Prime Minister, that most people have forgotten how much Britain lost. From the Treaty of Paris of 1814, which brought it into the British Empire, until after the Second World War, Malta was Britain's key strategic port in the Mediterranean. That assessment was proved right during the critical years between 1940 and 1943. But for the socialism and loyalty of the Maltese people, Churchill's decision to hold the island could not have worked. Its importance continued after the war, but was gradually given less emphasis.

By the time Dr Fenech Adami came to power 15 months ago, it appeared the English had left behind only their language, the George Cross on the flag, and red telephone boxes: a further vestige of the era being membership of the Commonwealth.

Adopting a policy of non-alignment, Malta closed the Nato base in 1971 and reached a phase-out arrangement with London under which the last British forces left in 1979. Although constitutionally neutral, it was by now disposed towards Moscow and Libya.

This reversal of the West's fortunes was by no means an inevitable by-product of the transition to independence. It stemmed much more from the understandable exasperation of British ministers in their dealings with Maltese leaders.

The first wrong move came as early as 1951 when Britain resisted a request by the Nationalist Prime Minister, Dr Borg Olivier, for dominion status. Mr Dom Mintoff won the 1955 election on a platform of "Be British, vote Mintoff". Few now remember that he was then the leading pro-British politician and proposed that Malta should be "integrated" with the United Kingdom, with its own MPs at Westminster. Sir Anthony Eden reacted quite favourably but the talks ran into difficulties.

culties. Britain did not make enough effort to stop the slow divorce which followed.

Events since independence have proved the obvious: the real reason for keeping a military presence in Malta is to prevent others from doing so.

Sixteen years of socialist government, first under Mr Mintoff, then Dr Mifsud Bonnici, brought about huge shifts in Maltese attitudes. The Nationalist Government, which was elected last year, was very different in outlook from that of Dr Olivier. There will be no return to the past.

But Dr Fenech Adami has begun making welcome changes. In 15 months he has shifted the balance of Malta's foreign policy and improved the climate for business. It is not realistic to expect him to break ranks entirely with Colonel Gaddafi, because the economy is now closely tied to Libya. But he is willing to place a pro-Western slant on Malta's neutral and non-aligned status. Britain would be foolish not to encourage him.

Any help should take a form which will enable him to achieve a workable parliamentary majority at the next election. In May last year his party, which is essentially Christian, democratic, won more votes but fewer seats than the socialists. He was able to form a Government only because of a constitutional amendment passed earlier which provided for such a situation by allowing the loser to "top up" its parliamentary position.

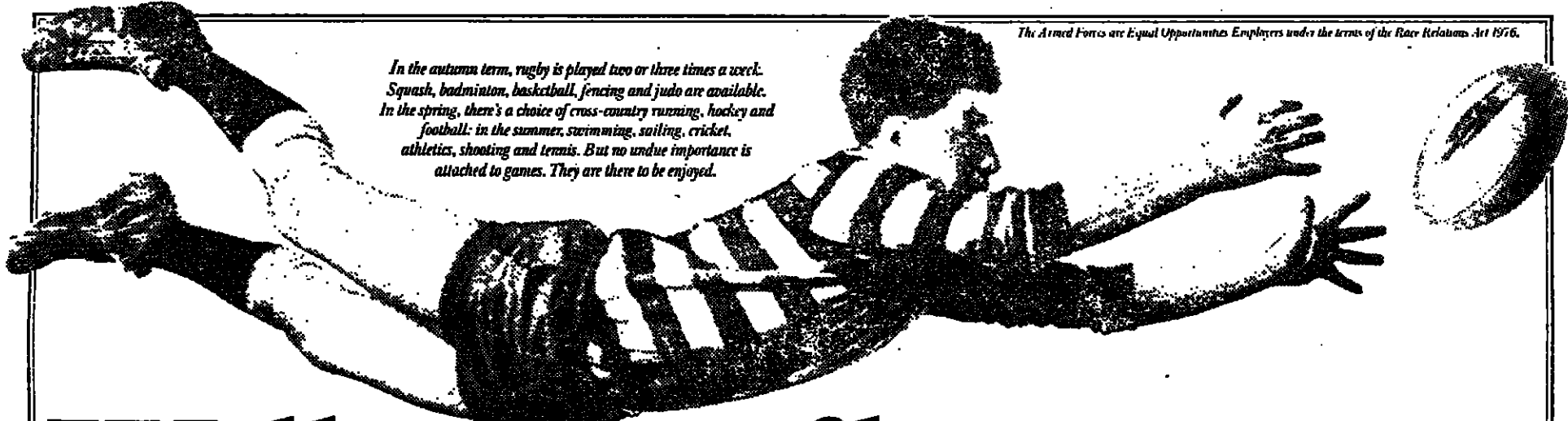
The key to strengthening Dr Fenech Adami's position lies in Maltese accession to the

It would be foolish not to encourage Dr Fenech Adami

EEC. Given that it is now too late to bring Malta into Nato, the European Community is the next most effective anchor to keep its interests within the West.

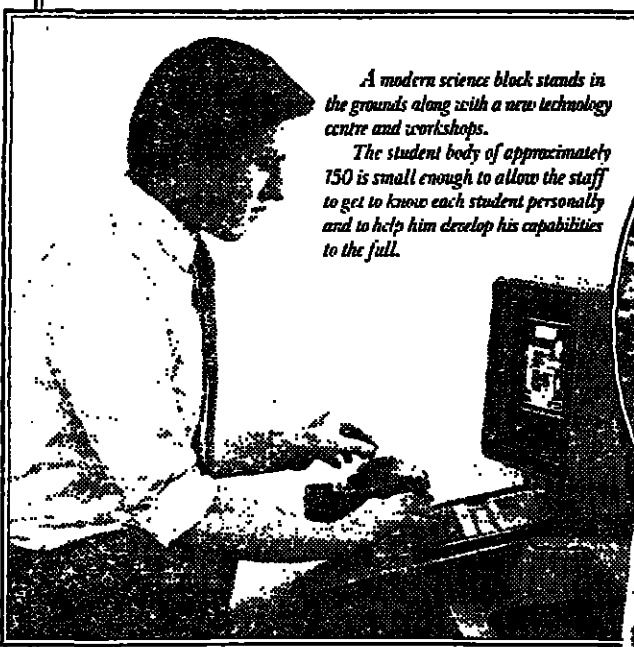
Dr Fenech Adami has already promised to make an application before the next election in 1992, and it is essential to his prospects that it should be well received. His key request will be that Mrs Thatcher should indicate clear support — not just approval. This presents difficulties, but the advantages of helping him outweigh the disadvantages.

But for our own short-sightedness, Malta would now be part of the Western alliance. Nationalist governments between 1964 and 1971 were twice rejected when they applied first for membership of Nato and then for associate membership or observer status. The effect was to reinforce socialist tammy that "even your friends do not want you". It is time to give the Maltese a more encouraging message.

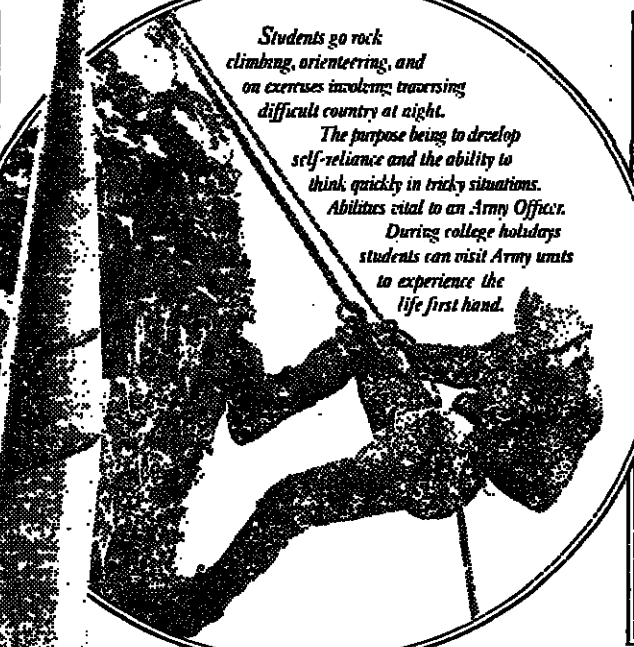


In the autumn term, rugby is played two or three times a week. Squash, badminton, basketball, fencing and judo are available. In the spring, there's a choice of cross-country running, hockey and football. In the summer, swimming, sailing, cricket, athletics, shooting and tennis. But no undue importance is attached to games. They are there to be enjoyed.

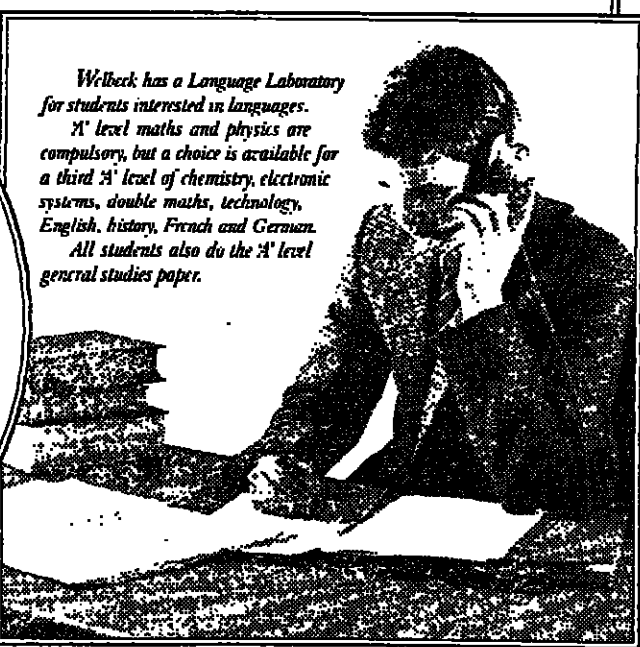
Welbeck: a flying start to a military career.



A modern science block stands in the grounds along with a new technology centre and workshops. The student body of approximately 150 is small enough to allow the staff to get to know each student personally and to help him develop his capabilities to the full.



Students go rock climbing, orienteering, and on exercises involving traversing difficult country at night. The purpose being to develop self-reliance and the ability to think quickly in tricky situations. Activities vital to an Army Officer. During college holidays students can visit Army units to experience the life first hand.



Welbeck has a Language Laboratory for students interested in languages. At level maths and physics are compulsory, but a choice is available for a third A' level of chemistry, electronic systems, double maths, technology, English, history, French and German. All students also do the A' level general studies paper.

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everybody quickly feels at home and part of the College.

You may not have discussed an Army career with your son because you're pretty sure he would reject the idea. On the other hand, neither of you may have even considered it.

Write to the Principal, Welbeck College G8, PO Box 720, Chelmsford, CM1 3BR. Or tel. 0909 476826. He'll send you information about the opportunities for higher education and a career in the Army, starting with Welbeck.

He will also be happy to arrange for parents and potential students to visit the College and see the facilities first hand.

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Army Officer

Airport cleared as Bangladesh epidemic worsens

Dhaka's aid lifeline restored

From Ahmed Fazi, Dhaka

Zia International Airport was reopened for jumbo jets yesterday, allowing international aid to trickle again to the millions left sick and homeless by the Bangladesh floods.

Aviation agencies cleared the airport for all types of aircraft after its runway had been flooded for a week.

Five tonnes of relief supplies arrived in Dhaka yesterday, flown in by the Indian Air Force. More supplies are expected from Saudi Arabia, Qatar and Kuwait today.

Health officials said more than 150,000 people had been attacked by intestinal disease in the past three days. More than 200 had died of diarrhoea.

Unofficial estimates and news reports quote a higher death toll in the epidemic which is sweeping 40 flood-ravaged districts.

Doctors at the International Centre for Diarrhoeal Diseases Research in Dhaka reported an unusual rush of

patients coming to the hospital for treatment of intestinal diseases.

"We have no beds now to give to additional patients and many have to lie on the floor," said a doctor who had been working overtime treating people dehydrated by water borne diseases.

Voluntary agencies working in flood relief camps said about 35,000 people in Dhaka had been affected by cholera and various other intestinal disorders. The shanty town of

Kamrangir Char in southern Dhaka had 10,000 victims, they said.

Opposition parties attacked the Government for failing to meet the challenge.

Sheikha Hasina Wazed, chief of the Awami League, and Mr Begum Khaleda Zia, leader of the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, blamed the Government for failing to check the epidemic.

"People are dying of diarrhoea without medical help," Sheikha Hasina said

yesterday. "Many deaths could have been prevented if water purifying tablets were supplied in time."

They claimed relief goods from government stores had been taken by workers of the ruling Jatiyo party.

President Ershad brushed off the opposition claims, accusing them of trying to play politics on the sufferings of people. "The Government and the armed forces are doing their best to meet the emergency while some political

leaders are confusing the people by making false statements," General Ershad said.

He called an emergency meeting of senior health officials and cancelled the leave of doctors to strengthen the 3,881 medical teams. "We must do every thing on a war footing," he said.

Helicopters were put into service to carry water purifying tablets and rehydration salts to the southern Bangladesh districts of Barisal and Bagairat where more areas went under water as rivers took a fresh intake from those which fell in the northern and central parts of the country.

The flood monitoring centre said the Brahmaputra river basin continued to fall, improving the situation in the northern districts.

It said the river fell by 8 ins on Wednesday at Bahadurabad but was still flowing 28.8 ins above the danger mark.

Letters, page 17

Britain increases aid by £7 million

Britain is to give an additional £7 million in emergency food and aid relief for the 25 million people left homeless by the worst flooding in Bangladesh's history (Nicholas Beeson writes).

During a visit to the Sport Aid headquarters in London, Mr Christopher Patten, the Minister for Overseas Development, said that Britain was giving 50,000 tonnes of food worth about £5 million, and contributing £1 million to private charities and another £1 million to

the Disasters Emergency Committee, which has just launched an appeal for Bangladesh.

Mr Patten warned that, as the flood waters receded, the threat facing the population in the next few weeks was a shortage of food.

Britain, the first country to respond to the flooding, has so far contributed £7.5 million to Bangladesh. Mr Patten said more aid would probably be donated once it became clear what was required and what the response of other countries would be.

The silence of a village the floods wiped out

Rowmari — An eerie silence filled this village, once a bustling trading post in northern Bangladesh, as flood waters started receding this week into the Brahmaputra River, and the thatched tops of mud flats surfaced. (Our Correspondent writes).

The usual curious crowd of half-naked children and unemployed young people was not there to greet the US-built Bell helicopter when it chattered over the village carrying the Information Minister, Mr Mahbubur Rahman, and a group of journalists. The vast sheet of water was broken only in places by green patches of vegetation — the submerged portions of mango trees.

The helicopter circled the village several times and then landed on a patch of dry land from which the water had receded.

There were about 5,000 people living in the village, mostly rice planters and jute traders who sold their produce to the large country boats which came up the river, bringing molasses, onions and aluminium pots. When the river broke its banks and the floods rushed in two weeks ago, the village was simply

wiped away. Many of Rowmari's villagers are missing. But at least 200 of them have found refuge in a school house in a town a mile away.

"I have lost my entire family," said 80-year-old Karim Sikdar, who lived with his son, daughter-in-law and their five children. "I think they are still alive somewhere," Mr Sikdar refused to give up hope.

As the water receded further in the two main river basins of Brahmaputra and Ganges, the Government's preliminary figure put the number of homeless at more than 30 million. About 33,000 square miles in 63 districts have been inundated — more than twice the area normally flooded every year.

The death toll has risen to more than 1,000, but officials said this figure did not include the fatalities caused by a raging intestinal epidemic. About three million tons of rice are feared lost in the flooded paddies.

Mr Derek Douglas, a British expatriate working in a mother-and-child project in Falcourt village down the Brahmaputra, sponsored by the Save the Children Fund, said: "If drinking water cannot be made avail-

able quickly, there will be many more deaths."

The changing course of the river has split the village; Mr Douglas and his colleagues now work on both banks in the six feeding centres under knee-deep water.

"We have lost three children and 17 primary schools are now flooded," Mr Douglas said.

But he is not worried about the water which has engulfed the entire project area of 60 square miles — visited by the Princess Royal in 1984. "We are more concerned about outbreak of diseases," he said.

For the moment, the flood is receding from the northern districts but the rush of water back into the rivers has set off a second round of devastation.

"The water is taking with it more houses and rail bridges," a relief official in the northern town of Serajganj said.

The flood monitoring centre in Dhaka said the receding water has destroyed more than 400 villages and thousands of mud flats, and there was still fresh flooding. Mr Ferroz Kabir, the Mayor of Saver Town about

16 miles west of Dhaka, said the River Bangshi had washed away an entire suburb on Tuesday, making 200,000 people homeless and killing 51 others.

While several towns in the northern part of the country re-emerged on Tuesday there was very little sign of the flood waters receding in Dhaka where the number of homeless has risen to more than 600,000.

After surviving for days on a meagre diet of a single chapati made of flour, and a morsel of molasses, men in the city camps appear seriously malnourished. In one relief centre in Mirpur, in the northern part of the city, women clawed at each other and children screamed for water when it was brought by volunteers.

The camp had no supply for three days because water tankers could not be brought in against swift currents. The area's taps were submerged about a week ago.

One man sitting in the corner of a camp set up in an unfinished building had a bleeding foot and was trying to staunch the flow with a dirty rag. Another had a gash at the waist from a floating tin roof. The women and children were no better off.

Anger spills across border



Burmese residents in Thailand demonstrating angrily outside their country's embassy in Bangkok yesterday. About 100 protesters called for democracy in their troubled homeland.

Burma uprising falters in face of food crisis

From Neil Kelly, Bangkok

Lack of food, fuel and other essentials, and fear for lives and property yesterday began to restrain the uprising which has brought the Burmese Government almost to its knees over the past month.

Nevertheless, most of Burma's 38 million people were on strike, and according to agency reports from Rangoon about a million people, including top government officials and intelligence agents, marched in the capital.

Rangoon came to a standstill as soldiers and policemen, uniformed state factory workers, Buddhist monks and

one of the opposition leaders, "but we must get food and other essentials to many people who are suffering."

She said that almost the whole population had stopped work for weeks so the strike had been largely symbolic.

Many more troops were brought into the capital overnight. They are guarding key centres — the city hall, state radio, leaders' residences, the National Bank and the Parliament complex where soldiers yesterday erected barricades. Demonstrators are prohibited from going near the

attend next week's meetings, diplomats say that a big attendance is likely.

The Government wants both the party and Parliament to approve a referendum on a return to parliamentary democracy under a multiparty system.

The opposition, which has paralyzed the country with strikes and protests in the past month, wants early free elections, the end of the one-party state and the dissolution of the ruling party. They say that the proposed referendum is a delaying device and do not trust the Government to conduct an honest referendum or clean elections.

Troops began anti-looting patrols in Rangoon yesterday and were welcomed by many people after the ransacking of food stores and public buildings over the past three days. Local newspapers yesterday published pictures of six men decapitated in looting incidents.

Shortage of food is now causing real hardship among poorer people, who, even if they can find it in the markets, do not have money.

A few services are still running normally. Rubbish is being collected and electricity supplies are more regular than usual because of lower demand by industry.

However, the scarcity of food, fuel and medical services was a factor in the decision by some foreign embassies to evacuate dependants. None has left yet, because at present there are no flights in or out of Rangoon.

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W1 90 Mount Street
SW1 412 Lower Regent Street
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SW16 85 High Street Wimbeldon
MALVERN 20 Graham Road
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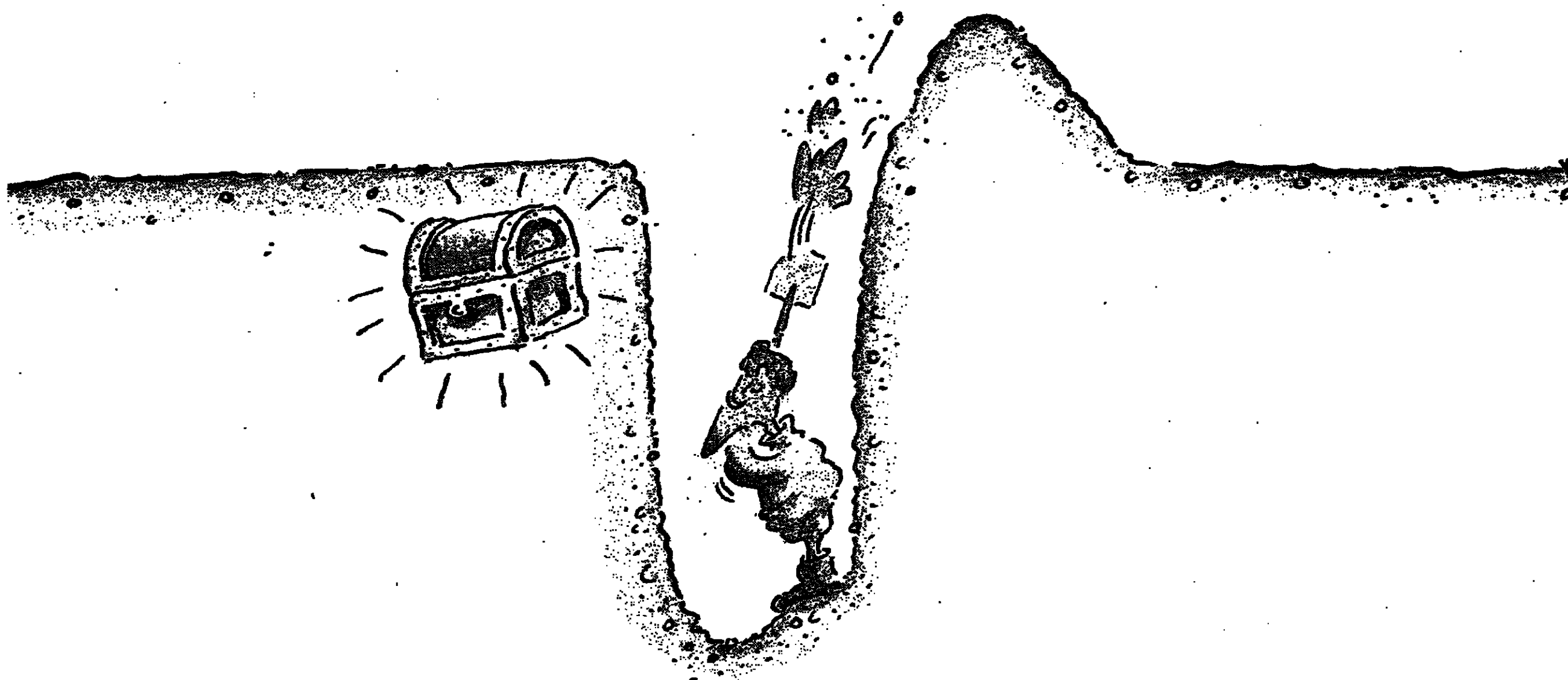
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FRIDAY PAGE

'It may be an error to suggest that God wanted to experience humanity so much that he plugged into it as a Californian idiot'

Two films are raising a lot of large questions these days. *The Last Temptation of Christ*, which opens today, tackles the life of Jesus as seen by director Martin Scorsese. *The Times* film critic has said that it is "serious, thoughtful, intelligent, reverential . . . adding for good measure that it makes "no concessions to drama or entertainment in the conventional sense". Sounds a bit like Heidegger or Kant, I thought. Perhaps not one to get on video.

Next Wednesday was to have been the Royal performance of *Buster* in the presence of the Prince and Princess of Wales. This is the film about Buster Edwards, one of the Great Train Robbers. However, its star, pop singer Phil Collins, felt so strongly about the large questions it involved that he disinvited the Waleses. He didn't want to see them put in a difficult spot, he said, which I thought was rather white of him. Now, the film will just have a gala premiere.

For once I happened to have seen both films in those cosy private screening rooms which accommodate about a dozen and a half people in big armchairs with enough room to fold your legs and stick your elbows out on both sides. At the Scorsese screening there was definitely a sense of menace. A husband and wife from the William Morris Agency

brought their daughter to see it and she had to have aspirin even before the two-hour and 40 minute epic began. "Did you know they picked Lew Wasserman's house?" the husband said in a voice that dipped at the mention of the name of the chairman of Universal Pictures' parent company.

The Reverend Stephen Brown came from Leeds for the viewing and sat in front of me with a large tablet of paper making notes. I thought he must be very shocked at the movie as he scribbled furiously, but he turned out to teach a film course at the College of Ripon and York St John. Afterwards he said that, speaking personally, he found the film "very conservative". The scene of Jesus making love to Mary Magdalene was nothing, after all, but a hallucination. "I don't think I would have any problem if he was involved in a real relationship," he said, "because Jesus was made man and tempted."

It was the fuss about *Buster*, though, that put me on to the rat in all of this. I turned on TV-am and there was a very sombre Phil Collins sounding just like *The Times* film critic. Opposition to *Buster* had been based on the belief, he said, that it "glorifies crime". Not so, explained Collins. "It is, I believe, and we all believe . . . that it is a moral story and not glorifying crime and its victims

in a violent period." Miss Diamond wrinkled her brow. "But don't you believe," she asked, "that the event of a big premiere with Princess Diana and all the glitz and the publicity she attracts would glorify what was a criminal act and a terrible outcome for at least one person?" That stumped Phil. "Yeah," he replied mournfully, "I can't deny that it could be looked at that way." In defence of films like *Buster*, every age and culture that I have ever heard about has always had a fascination with criminals from Robin Hood to Bonnie and Clyde. I really do think this fascination is too widespread and universal to read into it the hero-worship of the idea of criminality itself. Furthermore, we've always flirted with this criminality at a safe moral remove. We create myths around gangsters, imbuing them with characteristics they may or may not have had as the mood flashed by them. Robin Hood took from the rich to give to the poor; Raffles never broke the Public School code. *Buster*, who steals nappies



BARBARA AMIEL

characters are capable of love and sacrifice. But a cheap and sentimental look at a criminal's story, as in *Buster*, will fail to illuminate any aspect of the human condition and does nothing but exploit our fascination. This underscores my belief that the moral content of any art work depends primarily on its quality as art. If you do something well enough, the most sordid subject can be a highly moral exercise. Do it badly and it throws a light on nothing except possibly the desire of the production to make a buck.

for his pregnant wife, takes a million pounds so he can unselfishly give Julie a diamond necklace and a forged passport. "That's what we worked all them years for," he says movingly to her in a Munich hotel room. It's love of family that moves him to take whatever he bloody well wants as he feels like it. Myth-making is what it is, I think, in which some redeeming trait becomes the major characteristic. Of course, people are not all of a piece, as Somerset Maugham observed, and the most abominable

My suspicions about *Buster* were raised the minute the film refused to confront the violence involved in the robbery or, indeed, the injury caused by any of the petty thefts that made up Buster's life. Anyone who has ever had a piece of luggage stolen or their life savings taken knows just how close to a violent personal injury this feels. A good film would have tackled this idea.

I'm sure that Collins and director David Green are sincere when they say they see their film as being a great love story. But sincerity is a test of nothing except perhaps out-and-out fraud. A great artist who happens to be writing a script only because of a big fee may still do a more penetrating work than a "sincere" production team with a tin ear.

The Last Temptation of Christ is a truly awful film. It is the story of Christ played as a North American Jewish boy trying to find himself. I would have hoped that God, even as a human on earth, would have found himself at an early age. I think the film probably tells us more about the Hollywood intelligentsia who have may helped shape Scorsese's sensibility than anything else, and certainly brings to mind the old Jewish joke: how can you prove that God is Jewish? "He stayed at home till he was 30; his mother thought he was God and he thought she was a virgin."

Of course, people may question whether or not God created man, but there is no question that in so far as we have representations of God, He was created by man. In that sacred myth, God has always appeared in a certain light. I understand that God was supposed to experience all the temptations of the flesh through His son on earth; but I think it may be an error to suggest that God wanted to experience humanity to such an extent that He plugged into it as a Californian idiot.

In the hands of fine film makers who understood something about the sublime nature of the mythical Christ and the great conflict between his deity and humanity, a brilliant film might have been made. All sorts of themes could have been explored, including the thought that anyone who embraces a transcendental or millennial idea because he cannot entirely cope with human existence walks a fine line between sickness and transcendence.

But once in while a potentially great idea occurs to a vulgar and silly director who is imbued with virtually nothing but his own worthless cultural milieu. "If you weren't hanging on to your mother," shouts Mary Magdalene at Christ. "You were hanging on to me—and now you're hanging on to God." It sounds like therapy at Big Sur.

American First Ladies, a study in persuasion

The President's wife is increasingly a power in the White House. Victoria McKee talks to a man who has made First Ladies a subject of academic study

Modern American Presidents have established a tradition of leaving behind them libraries as a legacy of their time in the White House. In recent years their wives, too, have taken to keeping records of their years at the pinnacle of power . . . and these more intimate memoirs have become the subject of academic study.

Only this week, potential First Ladies Barbara Bush and Kitty Dukakis began to unveil their campaign diaries in weekly instalments in *USA Today* (with a little help from reporter Jean Becker).

It is a gesture some find tasteless, others amusing, but for Professor Lewis Gould it will be more material for his courses at the University of Texas on "First Lady studies". Gould, Professor of American History at the university, has been running the courses since 1982 and has just added Nancy Reagan to the curriculum for next year. "We never study them while they are in office because it is only afterwards that their effect can be assessed," he says. He does not find the Dukakis and Bush diaries an embarrassment to the office. "What a First Lady does is First Ladylike," he says. "This could create a precedent. Or perhaps the precedent is already there—Mrs Kennedy had a ghosted newspaper column called

Campaign Wife back in the Fifties."

Between 60 and 100 students attend Gould's classes each term and, although they cannot major in First Lady studies, the course is fully accredited and highly respected. Why study First Ladies? "Efforts to understand this singularly American institution in its historical context have been rare," Gould says. "A television producer once described Mrs Reagan's relationship as adviser to the President as 'unique', without any recognition that Edith Roosevelt, Helen Taft and Bess Truman were all closer to their husbands than Mrs Reagan on personnel and policy decisions. Almost no effort has been made to determine why First Ladies captivate the public as they do."

Although the Vice-President is described as being "a heartbeat away from the Presidency," the First Lady is literally so—all the time. For example, Woodrow Wilson's second wife, Edith, has been called "President-in-fact" by historians because she controlled who saw her husband during his disabling stroke in 1919.

"Most important," Gould says, "she refused to counsel Wilson to resign, and she made sure that the public did not learn the truth about his health. As a result the nation had no real President for more than a year."

Nancy Reagan was

criticized for having such a strong say in her husband's hiring and firing policy, and for controlling his schedule through consultations with her astrologer.

There is no doubt, Gould says, that even the most self-effacing and supportive First Ladies wield great influence—and never more so than now, when they have their own staff, policies and programmes. Gould feels an administration cannot be studied properly without examining the First Lady effect. "Today, America elects a couple," he says. "I don't think a candidate could get very far without a wife."

Is the fact that the role of First Lady is so significant one of the reasons that America is not yet able to accept a female leader? "I was asked this back in '84, when Geraldine Ferraro was running for Vice-President," Gould says. "No, I'm not sure the United States could cope with a 'first gentleman'."

Once the First Lady has been graced only with a social secretary. Today she has a staff of between 25 and 30 and is obliged to espouse serious causes such as drug dependency (Nancy Reagan), conservation (Lady Bird Johnson), the Equal Rights Amendment (Betty Ford) or mental health (Rosallynn Carter).

"The institution has changed tremendously," Gould says. "The catalyst was

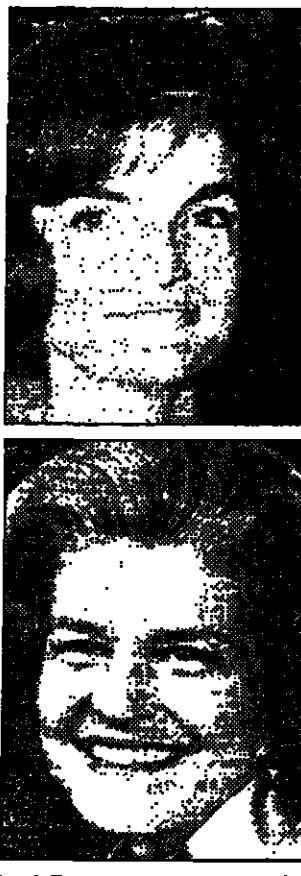


Study subjects: Kitty Dukakis, (top) Jackie Kennedy, Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon (bottom) Betty Ford, Rosallynn Carter, Nancy Reagan, and Barbara Bush

Eleanor Roosevelt, who created a high public profile and a precedent for her successors." Jackie Kennedy, on the other hand, was surprisingly non-political. She revelled in the role of hostess, and will be remembered for re-decorating the White House, enlivening it with art and music, and enhancing it so gracefully. Although she had suggested during her husband's campaign that she would take an interest in "education, helping children, student exchange, and cultural programmes abroad", these ideals were never realized.

"Lady Bird Johnson was the first to become politically focused, with her own institutional bureaucracy," says Gould, who is the author of the book *Lady Bird Johnson and The Environment*. Lady Bird is also the last First Lady whose social papers are fully available to scholars.

"Since Herbert Hoover, each President has had a library in his honour after he leaves office," Gould says, "but Nixon has had trouble finding a spot for his, and his papers, together with those of



Study subjects: Kitty Dukakis, (top) Jackie Kennedy, Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon (bottom) Betty Ford, Rosallynn Carter, Nancy Reagan, and Barbara Bush

Pat, are tied up in a limbo of litigation because of Watergate. It takes time to process these papers—Mrs Johnson had 2,000 boxes, which had to be gone through to remove any derogatory information about a living person." Few of Mrs Kennedy's papers have been made available—reputedly at her request—and those of Betty Ford and Rosallynn Carter are still being worked on.

Rosallynn Carter once said: "I don't think there will ever be another First Lady who will act only as more or less a hostess."

Nevertheless, the "Steel Magnolia", as she was dubbed, did not gain popularity points by sitting in on cabinet meetings. Her autobiography, *First Lady From Plains*, outsold her husband's memoirs and became a best-seller. John F. Kennedy could raise a laugh when he labelled himself "the man who accompanied Jackie Kennedy to Paris" but it wasn't so funny when Jimmy Carter began sending Rosallynn around the world as his "spe-



Study subjects: Kitty Dukakis, (top) Jackie Kennedy, Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon (bottom) Betty Ford, Rosallynn Carter, Nancy Reagan, and Barbara Bush

cial envoy". People were insulted that he did not go himself. The First Lady is expected to be serious but not serious enough to interfere in policy; attractive but sticking to "Republican cloth coats", like Pat Nixon, instead of flaunting designer clothes in times of deficit; diplomatic, as Nancy Reagan was not with Raisa Gorbachov; and fiercely protective of her husband. As Nancy Reagan said recently: "The First Lady is, first of all, a wife, and need make no apologies for looking out for her husband's personal welfare."

A generation earlier, Jackie Kennedy made a similar remark when cornered on the issue by an interviewer: "I think the major role of the First Lady is to take care of the President, so he can best serve the people." She apparently disliked the title.

The National Archives will publish *Modern First Ladies: Their Documentary Legacy*, with an introduction and afterword by Lewis Gould, in November. It will be the most significant analysis of the role



Study subjects: Kitty Dukakis, (top) Jackie Kennedy, Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon (bottom) Betty Ford, Rosallynn Carter, Nancy Reagan, and Barbara Bush

of the First Lady. In it Gould says: "Treating First Ladies in a feminist context is unproductive, because over the years they have so well reflected and exemplified middle-class family values."

Barbara Bush, he predicts, will continue to reflect those values—just as she refuses to change her white hair or do anything about her weight or wrinkles. Kitty Dukakis, on the other hand, shows an assertive style more akin to that of Rosallynn Carter. "Mrs Dukakis has already adopted the environment and the homeless as her causes, and was involved with a Boston project on public spaces and private spaces. As a governor's wife she is experienced in such things, whereas I don't think a Vice-President's wife, such as Mrs Bush, needs to be."

Mrs Bush has other strengths. She is an author—of a book on her late cocker spaniel, C. Fred. Rumour has it that she is planning another one in the same formula on their springer spaniel, Millie. The way George Bush whacked Barbara playfully on the rump in front of US



Study subjects: Kitty Dukakis, (top) Jackie Kennedy, Lady Bird Johnson, Pat Nixon (bottom) Betty Ford, Rosallynn Carter, Nancy Reagan, and Barbara Bush

anchorman Dan Rather and millions of television viewers during the Republican convention last month, and told her to run along before they settled down to the serious issues of the interview, was, many felt, even more embarrassing than the Dukakis caught dancing together cheek to cheek with no music (an incident Bush has referred to mockingly in a speech).

Plans for a First Ladies debate, first suggested during the primaries when there were numerous candidates for the title, have so far come to nothing because most of the women refused to attend. Barbara Bush sent word most emphatically that she would participate in nothing of the kind, although Kitty Dukakis and Tipper Gore were apparently going to go.

But as Gould says: "Mrs Carter thought that a First Lady could call the nation to duty. She learned instead that the public wanted diversion rather than moral instruction from the President's wife."

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Why does the working mother get mad?

Are women really more likely to lose their temper than men? A new study suggests they are

Working women, and particularly working women with children, are the angriest people alive. "This is because it takes a considerable amount of energy to keep anger in check, and the working mother is usually spread so thin she hasn't got any energy to spare," explains Dr Patti Mazelan of Birmingham University's department of psychology—herself a working woman with no axe to grind. Mazelan has undertaken, together with her colleague Dr Kevin Howells, a unique study of the causes and control of anger, and tomorrow will be revealing the findings at the Behavioural Therapy Congress in Edinburgh—an international gathering of psychologists specializing in all aspects of human behaviour. "It isn't until we understand the mechanism of normal



anger," Mazelan says, "that we can begin to comprehend the abnormal anger that requires therapy to control."

It was PhD research into rape which led Mazelan to anger, a field in which comparatively little research has been done. "Kevin worked in Broadmoor for a while, and often says that there are some people who have bottled up anger for years—and they're the ones who may end up suddenly murdering their whole family," Mazelan says. Mazelan and Howells have categorized no fewer than 320 kinds of anger, triggered by everything from child abuse and unemployment to people who wear blue jeans with a crease down the front, or men

FIFTEEN TRIGGERS TO A TANTRUM

1. Acquiring goods or services (telephone sales, people who dawdle in front of you in the supermarket)
2. Anger/irritability in others (temper tantrums in children, people who continually moan)
3. Cost of living/lack of money/unemployment
4. Crime
5. Denigration by others' negative behaviour (being blamed for something you did not do; people talking about you behind your back)
6. Devaluation by others' attitude ("If you had spent time and effort on something and the person put tomato ketchup all over it")
7. Dirty pavements/streets (people who spit in the street, dog fouling)
8. Having your time wasted (for instance, by workmen who fail to turn up)
9. Irritating people (Esther Rantzen, Cliff Richard, Cyril Fletcher and the whole *Game For A Laugh* team were among the candidates, together with "men who tell smutty jokes")
10. Mismanagement by higher authorities (EEC policies, politicians, and so on)
11. Motorists' inconsideration
12. Naughty children
13. Personal shortcomings (accidentally hurting yourself, getting measurements wrong in DIY and dressmaking)
14. Victimisation (bullying, cruelty to animals, pensioners and children)
15. Others' idiosyncrasies ("when the dog barks at the wrong times", "smug and self-satisfied radio programmes")

This then goes through an "interpretation"—"she meant to do it", or "he's a clumsy oaf, always spilling things on me"—in which there is an "arousal component", which may make the face go red or pale, the palms sweat or the heart start palpitating.

"You get into a cycle of anger and you must break the cycle to control the anger," Mazelan says. "Normal people tend to work out what's best for them; some say 'I have a walk', others 'I breathe deeply'—everyone is different."

Anger clinics are available, but not enough has been known about "normal" anger to provide a control. "There were people in our survey who

may get angry once a month, others six, 10, even 12 times a day. All are 'normal', she says. Not only are we all different, but what angers you one day, because you're tired, fed up or feeling out of control, may seem a laughing matter the next. "Laughter is probably the ultimate defuser of anger," Mazelan says.

Men, according to her results, rate best at controlling their anger—followed by "housewives", with working women trailing a disgruntled third. The bigger families women have, the angrier they seem to be—with the notable exception of one very contented mother of four children in the core sample of 110. "I should point out that I

went around finding subjects, rather than them finding me," Mazelan says. "They were not loony volunteers!"

After tomorrow's conference paper she will concentrate on the book she is writing with Howells—an amusing treatise on anger for the popular market to be published next year. Its working title is *Temper and Temperance*. Surprisingly, it would seem from her research so far that "the illusion of control," as she puts it, takes more effort than a good row. "It takes more energy to control anger than to give into it."

Alexandra King

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TIMES DIARY

DAVID WALKER

Ten years ago, Ralf Dahrendorf was director of the London School of Economics and the social-democratic firmament was still in place. In a series of papers to the Great and the Good, he unavailingly floated the idea of establishing within the LSE a British version of Washington's policy-building Brookings Institution. Dahrendorf was succeeded by a quiet Indian economist and the LSE has, during Mrs Thatcher's decade, kept its peace: until recently. A bit of quiet lobbying here, some paper-writing there, shameless use of the academic old pals' act... and the LSE has managed to insert into discussions about the future of higher education the idea of student loans and voucher-type payments by students of the full cost of their tuition. The "LSE plan" is a candidate for a major pronouncement in the autumn by Kenneth Baker — as if, in very different political circumstances, Dahrendorf's idea of a policy powerhouse had been realized.

The LSE's excellent PR, Iain Crawford, ensured a wide hearing for the nicely balanced work on vouchers by John Barnes — the biographer of Baldwin who is also a Tory councillor — and Nick Barr, an economist who leans leftwards. In the background, an unusual role for this right-wing gadfly, has been Kenneth Minogue, putting the word in among well-located friends. (Minogue will have to practice the older statesman role even more if, as some propose, he becomes the next LSE director.)

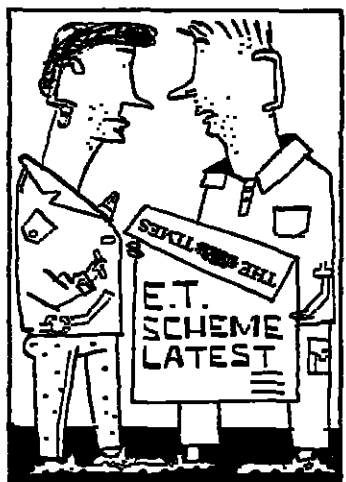
The LSE has some friends in high places, among them Professor Brian Griffiths in the Number 10 policy unit, who very quickly bought the academics' complaint that government policy on university funding had swung the wrong way entirely. And who is returning to Downing Street next year but Griffiths' former colleague in the LSE's economics department, Professor Sir Alan Walters. In fact, when such gurus as Elie Kedourie, Donald MacRae and Walter Oakeshott are counted in, it is a wonder the LSE ever acquired even a passing reputation as a hotbed of leftism. As the LSE conservatives have come into their own, so their powers of persuasion seem to have been working. Minogue has organized a grand conference on September 20 on the LSE plan and signed up the minister for higher education, Robert Jackson, as principal speaker.

There are those who say that the LSE is being taken for a ride by clever ministers who like the voucher/loan scheme but want the universities to be seen making the running with a controversial idea; but even if Jackson, fellow of All Souls, is clever, the social scientists from the LSE are clever and worldly, and look likely to win this trick.

Kenneth Minogue's conference on the future funding of universities is being sponsored by the LSE's Suntory Toyota International Centre for Economics and Related Disciplines — representing a nice chunk of endowment money from the Land of the Rising Sun. But to prove its academic independence, or at least its interest in a side to Japan other than motor car and whisky exports, the LSE is sponsoring the launch, within a few days of the other conference, of a multi-volume guide to... the Tokyo War Crime Trial. The Nuremberg records were made publicly available, but until now the massive archive of material on the Tokyo trial covering the pre-war as well as the wartime history of Japan has been much less accessible.

In a couple of weeks university vice-chancellors go into their annual "retreat" — a couple of days in Oxford at which they will try to sort out where to go in the brave new post-Education-Reform-Act world. Looking around this group, what is striking is not just how unlikely most are ever to do anything controversial, or in the government terms critical, but how many known Tories there are among them. That has probably always been true; what is noteworthy now is that the Tories have "come out". When Lord Butterworth, former vice-chancellor of Warwick, sat on the Tory benches after his ennoblement there were some common-room mutterings. Now, Sir Graham Hills of Strathclyde wears his Thatcherism with pride; and academics such as Sir John Kingman of Bristol and Anthony Kelly of Surrey no longer conceal a Conservative disposition.

BARRY FANTONI



'Probably has something to do with an alien — you know, someone with a proper job'

A job on offer, which indicates the flavour of the times, is that of an economist director at the National Economic Development Office. The present incumbent, Walter Eltis, is moving up to become director-general and needs an economist who is different, but not too different. There's the rub. Eltis is a classicist, and most of those of the age, disposition and intellectual attainments to succeed him are, if not Keynesians, then not identifiable with, say, Patrick Minford or Alan Walters. At the British Association in Oxford this week, Sir Douglas Hague, former prime-ministerial adviser and chairman of the Economic and Social Research Council, lambasted the 300 economists who wrote to *The Times* in 1981 protesting at the unwelcome policy of government economic policy. They should have the grace to apologise, Sir Douglas said. Maybe, but the odd thing is that the younger generation of those critical economists have done remarkably well for themselves since, and it is a good bet that one of them will end up as Eltis's choice.

A rumour circulated in the TUC Congress this week in Bournemouth that future conferences might be held every two years. If the purpose of meeting is to promote and enhance the image of the trade union movement, then on the evidence of this week every 10 years would be too frequent.

We have captured the attention of the general public in our activities this week not through the plethora of coherent and rational policies that have been agreed, but rather through a few short but spectacular bouts of madness.

Our members who see the true and positive face of trade unionism every day in their own work places must wonder if their opinions count for anything here.

Congress has been a contrast of wildly fluctuating emotions, from the high points of genuine, often crude, gut reactions founded on everyday experience, to the low points of acerbic dogmatic posturing, as illustrated by the irrationality that surfaced in the debates on recruitment and single-union agreements, where reputations seemed more important than jobs.

On the positive side, we had the debate on the National Health Service. Out went the platitudes and in came the everyday experiences of health workers — representative, articulate and realistic. This was congress at its best, listening to people at work.

We saw this repeated in the education debate, with professional concern about standards and resources. We reacted with conscience when listening to the genuine concern for the disadvantaged both at home and abroad. The debate on the 1992 single European market was forward-looking, invigorating and practical.

Then there were the low points. In particular there was the expulsion, without a debate, of the electricians, not just of Eric Hammond but also of his members, those same working people who voted five to one in favour of their union's approach.

The decision to expel was reached in an eerie atmosphere of orchestrated silence. We might well ask why such a respectful silence was never afforded the EETPU over the past few years. Without proper consideration of the consequences, the matter was conducted with chill efficiency, clearly heading the advice from *Macbeth*: "If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well it were done quickly." Incredibly, while the Government's policies have led to the TUC losing 1,000 members a day, the movement managed to lose a third of a million in less than one hour this week.

There were the pious double standards manifest in the employment training debate. What a godsend for Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Employment, as the TUC abrogated its responsibility for the unemployed.

The debate provided a ready-made script and excuse for any future government assault on tripartism. Not even Neil Kinnock, showing true leadership and bravery, could stop this insanity.

Bill Jordan sees a deep split between union members and the TUC

A movement's madness

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Then there were the low points.

In particular there was the expulsion, without a debate, of the electricians, not just of Eric Hammond but also of his members, those same working people who voted five to one in favour of their union's approach.

The decision to expel was reached in an eerie atmosphere of orchestrated silence. We might well ask why such a respectful silence was never afforded the EETPU over the past few years. Without proper consideration of the consequences, the matter was conducted with chill efficiency, clearly heading the advice from *Macbeth*: "If it were done when 'tis done, then 'twere well it were done quickly." Incredibly, while the Government's policies have led to the TUC losing 1,000 members a day, the movement managed to lose a third of a million in less than one hour this week.

There were the pious double standards manifest in the employment training debate. What a godsend for Norman Fowler, the Secretary of State for Employment, as the TUC abrogated its responsibility for the unemployed.

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thousands of workers. Here was the TUC playing politics rather than representing people at work. Could we today reject Nato while the first cruise missiles are being returned from Molesworth, the first fruits of multilateral disarmament becoming apparent? Do our members really want us to dance to the tune of anti-Americanism? Not the people that I meet on the shop floor.

We must find effective ways of bringing the real opinions of our members into our decision-making. It can be done.

I remember when the AEU was hauled over the coals for accepting ballot money from the Government and our members overwhelmingly backed us. My members want their concerns,

strongest fleeting impression. George Bush owes his sudden surge in the polls to the skillful way his image-makers seized the tele-viewing psyche with his one-liners attacking Dukakis over an alleged indifference to the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag. There is nothing new about the populist approach in politics. The novelty lies in the degree to which it is mixing with "information" to become the governing force in the venerable American democratic process.

Postman has invented a name for the new American — the kidult. He argues persuasively that childhood in America is fast becoming obsolete. As a result of the non-stop flow of information from television in easy-to-digest little chunks, there are no secrets left to children. Thinking they know it all by 11, they have little patience for formal education and fail to learn to read or reason productively.

There is thus no longer a difference between the manners and prerogatives that once separated child from adult. The kid then turns into the unthinking adult philistine, materialistic and devoted to technology and gadgetry.

Hollywood, as usual, has been quick to seize the mood. After the success of such films as *E.T.* and *Close Encounters of the Third Kind*, the industry has struck rich with a string of films that appeal to "kidult" America. This summer's biggest hit, *Die Hard*, was the latest example. "The big belly laughs are prompted by explosions, hangings, shootings, bodies dropping 30 stories to the pavement," said Vincent Canby, film critic of *The New York Times*. "No longer is there a necessity to find areas in which the interests of the child and the adult overlap. They are the same."

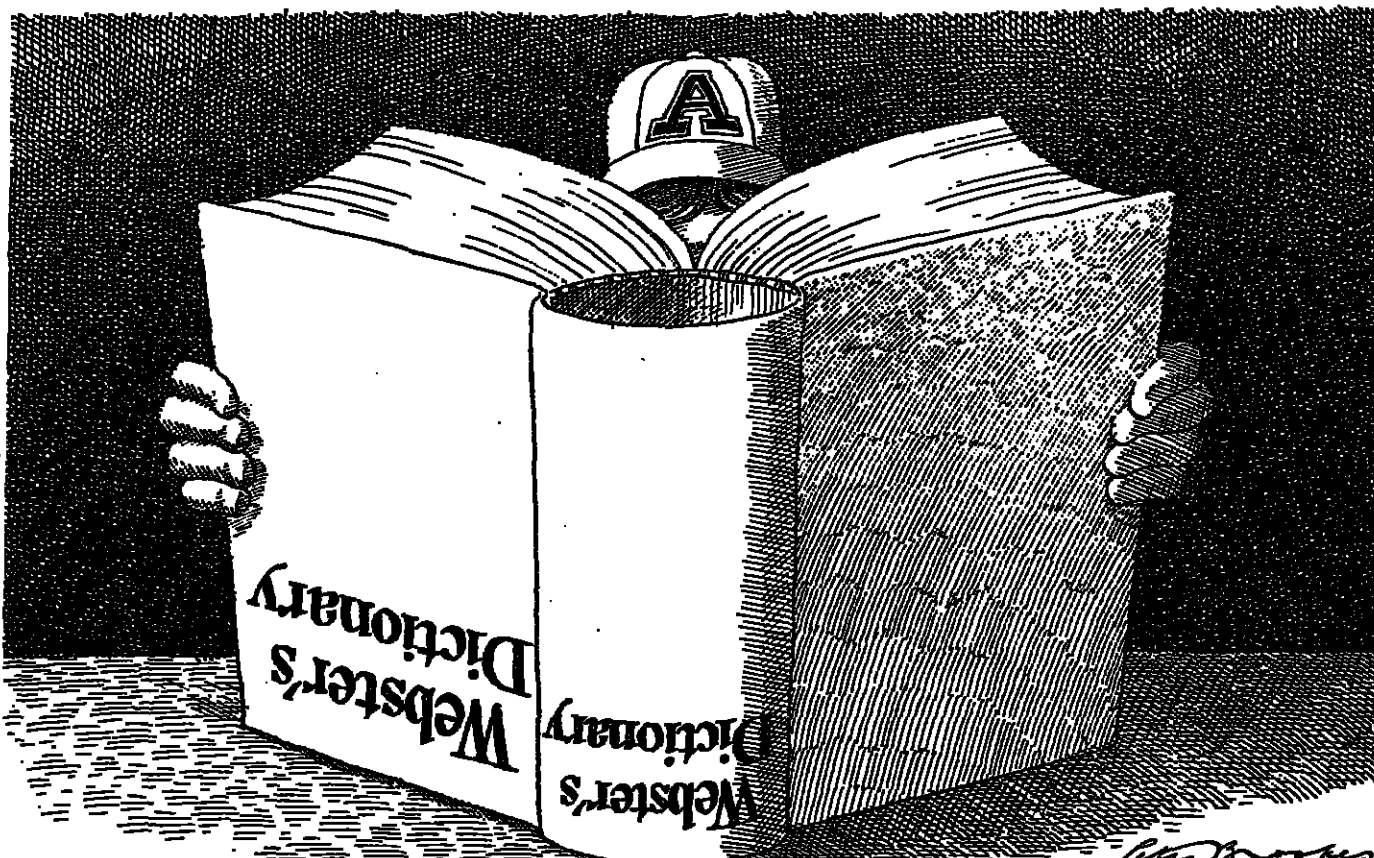
The television networks have also switched policy this autumn and have begun targeting their Saturday morning children's programmes on combined adult-child audiences. Far from all Americans are couch potatoes (another new Webster's entry) who are sinking into the search for the mindless thrill. The alarm is being so strongly sounded that Yankee ingenuity may well find a way of reversing the damage before the class of 2,000, embryos on its post-industrial adulthood.

endless white handkerchiefs by "ladies fairs to see," announced the progress of the Royal coronation. The spectacle was imposing and magnificent in the extreme, — indeed, was an exhilarating comment on the great truth, now for the first time revealing itself to kings and queens in all its native brightness, — that no monarch reigns so securely, so happily, — nay, so absolutely, as he who, the William IV, reigns in the hearts of his people.

We will remember the reception of George IV, on his progress to Westminster Abbey, on the same solemn occasion. What a contrast, though far more respectful and affectionate than, under the state of the public mind, was at the time anticipated. — to the enthusiastic eagerness of homage and personal affection which attended the procession of yesterday! His Majesty was affected even to tears; and twice or thrice, as it struck us, seemed like one anxious to escape to privacy, in order to give vent to his feelings.

Charles Bremner

Is this, like, cultural decline?



Michael Dukakis and Vice-President George Bush are busy telling every gathering that they will become "education presidents" and reform the system, but they have given no plans.

There is a growing worry that the country may be undergoing a transformation that is an inevitable and paradoxical consequence of the information age. According to this theory, as the globe has contracted into a communications village and the citizen is subjected to a daily deluge of words and images, he or she absorbs less, thinks less and cares less about it.

The pessimists have no shortage of evidence to push their case, and most of it stems from education. "Hi-tech crisis looms over USA," said the top front-page story in the national *USA Today* newspaper yesterday. For three days this week, *The New York Times* published a series of articles on the "Price of Illiteracy". The cause of alarm is that just when the future workforce will require more skilled and educated people, a growing number of Americans are not capable of reading, writing or thinking independently.

According to the official estimate, there are between 23 million and 27 million illiterate adult citizens, or 10 per cent of the population, the highest rate in the industrialized world. Many millions more are said to be handicapped by their ignorance of basic mathematics and science, an area in which America ranks far below many developing countries.

Earlier this year, the New York Telephone Company was looking for new operators and repair men. It tested 22,800 applicants and found only 3,619 who reached the minimum level of literacy and thought. A few minutes on the telephone with the average "customer service" person in New York will bear eloquent testimony to the figures. Take other statistics: 60 per cent of the half-million prison population cannot read beyond the lowest primary school level; more than a third of America's present high-school generation will drop out.

A stunning ignorance about the world was demonstrated by the National Geographic Society in an international survey last month. Young American adults were found to be less aware of the outside world than their peers in all the other countries polled: Japan, Sweden, Britain, France, West Germany, Italy, Canada and Mexico. Five per cent of American adults could not name their nation's capital. Half of college students could not find Vietnam on a map, and half of US adults could not name the country where the Sandinistas and Contras were in conflict. The various surveys show that 50-year-olds have retained much more of their schooling than 20-year-olds. And, of course, fewer than 50 per cent of the eligible population is expected to vote in the November presidential election.

There is no shortage of effort to remedy matters. All 50 states have adopted some reforms and more than a dozen have completely overhauled their school systems. But the continuing slide is encouraging a view that something more profound than poor teaching is taking place. Just as the printing press and then the industrial revolution

transformed language and behaviour in earlier ages, so is the electronic age reshaping affluent 20th-century society. Video and computers are breaking down human communication, and, say the gloomier among the theorists, the passing on of moral values.

For Professor Bloom, widely decried as the guru of bad times, the future is a teenage boy bopping silently to the beat of his headphones, who has never heard of Shakespeare or Plato. Neil Postman, a New York University professor, says America is "amusing itself to death". With his or her mind numbed with video-pulp and the new electronic folklore, the average citizen is becoming detached from reality and can no longer tell the difference between television sit-coms, car chases and the evening news, or between Colonel Oliver North and a commercial.

This shortening attention span — reflected in the arrival of 10-second sound-bites on the television news — has transformed the business of electing presidents into a fight for who can "impact" the viewer with the

the author is president of the Adam Smith Institute.

Commentary • MADSEN PIRIE

How to privatize the post

The dispute in the Post Office shows up its anomalous position as one of the last public sector monopolies and adds urgency to the debate already taking place on what is to be done with it.

The Government does not relish the thought of a free-for-all in mail delivery, which might affect rural areas, and no doubt feels constrained by the Prime Minister's famous assertion that the Royal Mail is "different". None the less, opinion is growing that something must be done.

There have been three parliamentary attempts in recent years to repeal the monopoly, with half of the present Cabinet voting in favour of one or more of them. The Carter Report 10 years ago reported that "if the service becomes much worse than the public expects, it would become impossible to defend the monopoly against those who might offer a better service".

In many ways the parcels service is the easiest to tackle. It already operates in a competitive environment which includes private couriers and railway Red Star services. It could easily function as a separate entity in the private sector, and could be taken there by a management-led buyout involving the work-force, as was done so successfully with National Freight. The Government already knows how to do this, and would expect little difficulty.

The counter services perform more than 150 different transactions. These even include National Girobank and the Royal Mail, which deal with the counters section on a strictly commercial basis. Government work occupies much of its time, with the Department of Health and Social Security alone taking 33 per cent. The counters section handles items from bus passes to milk-tokens, from television and vehicle licences to passports, from pensions to greetings cards.

The Post Office already boasts that its 21,000 outlets serve 30 million customers per week and constitute the nation's largest retail chain. It could operate as an independent agency providing precisely those services under contract. Here again, if it had to make its living competitively in the private sector we could expect rapid introduction of cost-saving innovations. Much greater use of vending machines and "smart" cards would raise efficiency as well as diminishing the queues presently inflicted on a captive public. For the letter post itself, the

safest option might be for the Secretary of State to use his powers initially to license one or more competitors, much as Mercury operates alongside British Telecom. The competitive pressures would not only give the public a choice, always useful in preventing a dispute from stopping the whole service, they would also act to make the Royal Mail itself more efficient, in much the way that National Bus responded when its monopoly was removed. After a few years it will be possible to proceed with the privatization of the mail service itself, again with substantial participation by the work-force.

Fears are voiced that private competitors or a privatized Post Office would not maintain low business post offices or deliver to remote areas. In fact the chief cost of a postal service lies in receiving and distribution, and varies little with distance. This makes a uniform national rate a plausible strategy. In any case, both fields are wide open to the kind of innovation that competing services would seek.

It is not commonly realized that most of the innovations in postal services came from private competitors who were afterwards suppressed. John Hill's attempt to establish a national penny post was stopped by Cromwell, but the idea was later adopted. William Dockwra's London Penny Post of 1680 had more than 400 receiving stations, including some pillar boxes. He was fined and suppressed, although the stations were kept. The same happened

to Charles Povey, whose 1709 halfpenny carriage introduced bell-ringers to collect mail hourly from the streets of London, an idea kept by the Post Office until 1846. Another outsider, John Palmer, had to take his idea for mail coaches to William Pitt himself to get it accepted.

Other privatized industries and services have already shown their increased readiness to innovate and offer choices; there is no reason to expect mail delivery to be any different. What is remarkable is that the basic technology of sending letters is so similar today to early Victorian methods.

Competition would undoubtedly bring new types of service, with alternatives being offered at different prices. Remote rural mail might well be cheaper to deliver on vehicles, carrying other goods, or to collect from the village shop, or to deliver to roadside boxes. Certainly the private services already allowed with a minimum price tag of £1 offer a wide variety; they could well be equally innovative with cheaper mail.

The present strike has undoubtedly brought the eventual status of the Post Office higher up the agenda. It has shown how hollow is the claim that only a government-run service can be guaranteed. In fact, it is the interruption of the service which public ownership guarantees. Diversity and choice will bring safety as well as the prospect of improvement.

SEPT 9 ON THIS DAY 1831



The Times welcomed William IV to the throne, but found some aspects of the coronation ceremony "the worst drags of Popery and feudalism... a fuss of palls and... oil for anointing (greasing) their... Majesties."

THE CORONATION

The important ceremony of the coronation took place yesterday. Although the coronation of King William was not preceded by so loud a "note of preparation" as that of his deceased brother it excited greater interest amongst the community in general. This is attributable to the difference between the character of the two Monarchs. George IV was never a popular Sovereign, but his hold upon the affections of his subjects was never so weak as at the period of his coronation.

How different is the feeling of the people towards King William! There was not an individual in the immense multitude assembled yesterday who did not unite his love for the man with respect for his kingly office. One general feeling of joy seemed to pervade the whole population of London upon this occasion. Never within the memory of man was there so large a multitude assembled in the metropolis in as small a space as that which was occupied by the crowd yesterday. Seafordings were erected in front of most of the houses along the line of procession, to which spectators were admitted on paying sums varying from two guineas to a crown for each person.

At about half-past 10 o'clock, the enthusiastic cheers of the thousands which occupied every cranny in Whitehall and Parliament Street and the waving of

endless white handkerchiefs by "ladies fairs to see," announced the progress of the Royal coronation. The spectacle was imposing and magnificent in the extreme, — indeed, was an exhilarating comment on the great truth, now for the first time revealing itself to kings and queens in all its native brightness, — that no monarch reigns so securely, so happily, — nay, so absolutely, as he who, the William IV, reigns in the hearts of his people.

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How grossly do they libel the national character, and betray their ignorance of the common principles of human nature, who assert that to bestow upon the wealth and intelligence of the state its due share of political power, that is, to enlist both on the side of good government, is to endanger the stability of the throne or the people. Of all people on the face of the earth, the people of England are a King-loving and aristocracy-loving generation. However men may indulge in republican reveries in the closet, there is no permanent object of human sympathy but human beings. — that is, no political doctrines or constitutions can retain a fleeting grasp on the affections of the mass of mankind — save as they are identified with individuals.

1520 1520



1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone: 01-782 5000

DEMONS BY THE SEA

Two words have dominated the demonology of the TUC this week — Lawson and warfare. The first may be slowly on his way out; the second should be quickly on its way in. The first is well understood by enemies and supporters alike. The second — as yet — is not.

Mr Brian Wolfson, the new chairman of the Training Commission, let slip a few weeks ago what ought to be a properly declared policy. The Employment Training scheme should be the forerunner of a principled link between the payment of income support to the unemployed and public insistence that they be ready for work, or training.

Workfare is not a way of dragging back to work the victims of structural economic readjustment or regional disparities in growth. It has too often been presented, on the basis of mistaken descriptions of what happens in certain American states, as a punitive scheme. In Massachusetts or Arkansas workfare is an attempt to give new skills to groups of people wasting their lives. So it should be here, once unemployment "benefit" is recast as a payment entailing obligation.

As a scheme for getting the long-term unemployed back to work the Employment Training currently proposed is highly imperfect. It shows the strains of being an uncomfortable amalgamation of the Community Programme, the Job Training Scheme, and the other ways in which the Manpower Services Commission attempted to do something about mass unemployment. The Government (witness Mrs Thatcher's Scottish speech yesterday evening) has not properly made up its mind about the best mechanism for delivering ET to the unemployed, whether through a public agency augmented by private-sector employers or vice versa.

Although there are dangers of relying too heavily on private-sector employers for whom the unemployed may simply be an expedient or a source of grants, the Government has the kernel of a good scheme. In it are many elements which could usefully be built on. One is its awareness that women with children cannot participate in schemes of training or work if there is no proper provision for child care. Another is the simple realization that employment schemes must pay for bus and train fares if the unemployed are to attend interviews or courses.

What should have happened at Bournemouth this week was a constructive debate about ways in which the programme might be

improved. The trade unions would have been on firm ground if they had criticized the somewhat niggardly approach, and the Government's refusal (so far) to think difficult thoughts about regional disparities in job opportunities and how they are exacerbated by immobility caused by the way housing finance operates. Instead, the unions are left protesting their concern for the unemployed by withdrawing from an imaginative and perfectible scheme — which is also the only scheme on offer.

It is true that Employment Training will push down real wage rates in certain jobs. It ought potentially to reduce the cost of certain municipal services. Had the TUC unions honestly avowed their status as an interest group designed to protect the interest of their members against such developments, the battle would have been open. As it is their objections to Employment Training, couched in the language of brotherhood and social concern, ring hollow.

The unions' decision to withdraw will, possibly, slow the programme. It may require of the Government a more active role in buying and organizing opportunities for the unemployed than Mr Norman Fowler had envisaged. Such additional expenditure as the programme requires is justified.

But Employment Training is not enough. The closer the Government gets to the provision for all the unemployed of opportunities to train or work, the closer the Government ought to get to insisting that no income support or unemployment benefit will be paid unless they are taken. That is the core of workfare — a principle stated clearly by William Beveridge and (it is often forgotten) contained in the unemployment benefit regulations themselves for many years.

There is nothing new in the principle. Where the novelty comes is from implementation. And with implementation come, potentially, savings on the amounts paid out. The unemployment rolls contain people who are workshy — as many as one claimant in 10, on some surveys. Workfare weeds them out and saves public expenditure.

But workfare is not just an economical device out of Mr Lawson's pocketbook. There should be no illusions about that. It is a reform based on principle. The dishonesty of certain trade unionists in Bournemouth this week will have done a public service if it has brought that reform closer.

TAXING HARMONY

Britain's attitude to European ideas has long seemed to its partners to be excessively negative — and sometimes it has genuinely been so. All the more welcome then that, instead of doggedly arguing against the views of the Commission on harmonization of indirect taxes, the Government has tried to seize the initiative by putting forward positive proposals of its own.

The paper circulated by Mr Lawson ahead of the forthcoming informal meeting of the Community's Economic and Financial Affairs Council is both broadly right and well timed. Its proposals reflect a radically different philosophical approach from the *dirigisme* of Brussels. Whereas the Commission proposes to bring European tax rates closer together by decree, the British Government claims that the process can be left to the operation of market forces.

Competition exists between tax regimes just as it does between individual producers and between less tangible factors, such as environment and culture. The cuts in top rates of income tax in the Budget were justified partly by this very need to compete with other countries, particularly the United States, in the international labour market for skills.

There can likewise be a degree of competition between the rates of indirect taxes in different countries — as long as cross-border controls are minimized. High-tax countries will find their consumers fleeing to buy in low-tax countries.

The extent of that competition will, in reality, be more limited than some enthusiasts may hope. British consumers will not be flying

in droves to Spain to buy their TVs.

US experience, where sales taxes can vary considerably from state to state, suggests that competition will become a real factor only close to borders and that differences of at least 5 per cent will continue to be tolerated. But the pressures for lower taxes will be there.

Through an excess of enthusiasm, the retiring European Commissioner, Lord Cockfield, has allowed the tail to wag the dog here. As part of his pursuit of the single market, he has given a high priority to abolishing frontier controls. But frontier controls are far from being the most important impediment to free trade.

The truly important requirement for fair competition is that goods should be taxed at the same rate in the markets where they are sold — as is the case now. In trying to bring VAT rates closer together, the Commission has ended up requiring far bigger economic and political adjustments than are justified by the results.

The British Government's special interests are clear enough. Ending the zero-rating of food, fuel, and children's clothing is political anathema. Britain has more revenue to lose than most from harmonizing excise duties on drink, tobacco, and petrol. Mr Lawson proposes that countries should continue to set excise duties at whatever level they choose for health reasons.

The EEC meeting in Crete at the end of next week may not adopt the British proposals in detail. But it should decisively reject the Commission's.

HOME AND AWAY TRUTHS

As the 1988 football season gets into its stride, it is a useful exercise to consider what the game would have been like today had hooliganism never disgraced it. It would still not have been a pretty sight.

Football hooliganism has distracted attention from a range of other serious problems. It is by no means the single cause of the declining public interest in what was once an illustrious, sometimes even glorious, national pre-occupation.

When Mr Alex Fynn, deputy chairman of Saatchi and Saatchi, offered the sport the benefit of his professional expertise in a speech last month, he hardly mentioned terrace troubles. His diagnosis was rather that football was neglecting the first law of marketing: give the public what it wants.

His prescription was largely organizational and administrative. He called for radical changes to provide a style of leadership that can rise above football's factional conflicts.

It is the ordinary soccer supporters, he and she who pay to pass through the Saturday turnstile, who constitute the primary market. Through their interest and presence teams are anchored in the local communities which the directors affect to prize so highly.

Their clubs, however, have allowed themselves to be overly seduced by secondary supports, such as television rights, merchandizing and sponsorship agreements, rented-out hospitality facilities and the rest, which are in fact entirely dependent for their market value on the high interest of supporters in the stands and terraces. It has been said often, but clearly not often enough, that they have had a raw deal; and now they are voting with their feet.

Startling though the idea will be in most

football boardrooms, there is nothing essentially perverse about Mr Fynn's suggestion that football club managements should be elected by football supporters, as cricket managements are elected by cricket supporters, and as football club administrations are elected in many countries overseas. Instead the supporter, if he is not dismissed as a member of a rowdy pack inclined to make trouble, is seen as little more than an inconvenience to the game, a necessary evil.

The point is underlined by the results of a survey of all 92 Football League clubs by the London-based marketing agency Abram Hawkes Associates, which sent a letter, written as from a prospective supporter, to each of them, asking about membership and facilities.

A third failed to reply. Many others just sent pre-printed literature. Some clubs said they had no membership scheme. Only about half sent back an application form for a season ticket.

Even more revealing was the comment of the Football League itself, which ruefully described the administrators of its clubs as "a collection of 92 cottage industries". Football managements, by their generally off-hand attitude to the ordinary supporter, have created a climate fit for hooligans.

Vandalism and violence are not caused by seedy run-down surroundings, but they thrive in them. They decline once facilities improve, appearances are smartened up, and the customer begins to feel he is being taken seriously.

This is the lesson which football managements all over the country must learn. They would be more likely to do so if the game had a stronger national leadership which could remind the clubs of a few simple truths.

Teachers on a better course

From the General Secretary of the Professional Association of Teachers

Sir, Please allow me to comment upon your report (September 7) about proposals by the National Union of Teachers for the introduction of pendulum arbitration as a feature of negotiating arrangements between teachers and their employers.

The Professional Association of Teachers has been advocating just such a course for many years. We first raised the matter with Sir Keith Joseph as long ago as 1984, and submitted an extensive paper on the advantages of pendulum arbitration to the present secretary of state in the spring of last year. In between we raised the subject time and again with the other unions, but without success.

The conversion of the NUT to the association's point of view signals a spectacular change in its thinking. Clearly, the union has at last come to realise that the strike weapon is a futile and improper means of attempting to advance the interests of teachers.

Those of us who have for some years been studying pendulum arbitration and its outcomes have come to realise that its chief function is actually to discourage recourse to arbitration. Since neither side dare risk arbitrators making an award in favour of the other side, there is a powerful encouragement to settle. In short, pendulum arbitration is like the nuclear weapon in that its implications discourage its use.

It has to be recognized that, so far as the Government is concerned, reluctance to incorporate pendulum arbitration in new negotiating arrangements is likely to prove as strong as reluctance to establish a review body, and for the same reason. Both approaches to the determination of teachers' pay and conditions would appear to leave the Government with insufficient control over expenditure.

How we are going to get round that problem remains to be seen but, if the forthcoming meetings between the secretary of state and the teachers' unions are going to lead to long-term peace in the education service, either pendulum arbitration must be introduced or a review body established. There is no other way.

Yours faithfully,
PETER DAWSON,
General Secretary,
Professional Association of Teachers,
99 Friar Gate,
Derby.
September 7.

Examination question

From Mr Michael Tatham

Sir, If a dyslexic teenager with a reading age of 8½ can obtain a properly-awarded B grade in the new GCSE examinations for English literature, and achieve that thoroughly commendable result by the cumbersome "oral" methods described in David Tyler's report (August 30), what are we to infer about a), the standard of the new GCSE literature exam; b), the academic achievement of the vast majority of our very expensively educated children who have not proved capable of obtaining a B grade either in English literature or anything else?

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL TATHAM,
The Yellow House,
Little Odell,
Bedford.
September 1.

Honours up to date

From Brigadier Robin Rhoderick-Jones

Sir, Mr Des Foy's proposal (September 6) that "British Empire" should be replaced by "Great Britain" in order to bring honours up to date really will not do. He forgets that we are the "United Kingdom" of Great Britain and Northern Ireland. What price GUK, KUK, CUK, OUK and, of course, MUK?

What, especially, about DUK? Yours faithfully,
ROBIN RHODERICK-JONES,
Sheldon Court, Sheldon,
Hendon, Devon.
September 2.

The sound of poetry

From Mr George Hay

Sir, Re Dannie Abse's *Diary* (September 6), his confusion over Dial-a-Poem is understandable. As the originator of this project, may I clarify the position?

In the first place, David Whitehead is not an ogre, and neither is he running Dial-a-Poem. What he, on behalf of British Telecom, is doing is giving us very generous co-operation, without which the project would not exist.

Because he was keen on extending the listenership, he suggested requesting Barbara Cartland to record for us. John Rety, as editor, agreed. Miss Cartland, after all, is a published poet.

By contrast, we have coming up a poem in Cornish, and have just featured Christopher Logue. Sauce for the goose and sauce for the gander, say we!

It may interest your readers to know that Dial-a-Poem can now be reached, via an international number, from anywhere on the planet.

Yours faithfully,
GEORGE HAY
(English Language Society),
Fine Books Oriental,
46 Great Russell Street, WC1.
September 6.

Dams that endanger Bangladeshis

From Mr Nicholas Hildyard

Sir, Your leader, "Preventable disaster" (September 6), is right to say that the cause of the disastrous flooding in Bangladesh lies in deforestation in the Himalayas. However, the building of dams and barrages to supply electricity to the power-starved plains of India would not improve the welfare of local people.

Large dams and barrages in the tropics have a record of causing unmitigated social and ecological destruction. The Volta dam flooded an area the size of Lebanon. The Tehri dam, now under construction in the Indian Himalayas, will displace 75,000 people. They are to be resettled on land which is not only less fertile than their homelands, but which has been cleared of its forests.

Because of the high rates of erosion in the Himalayas (Nepal alone loses an estimated 10 tons of soil per acre per year) any dam built in the area will inevitably suffer from premature slitting. According to a recent World Bank report the average "life expectancy" of major water-storage reservoirs in the tropics is just 24 years, as against an expected age of some 100 years. The cost of replacing or clearing affected reservoirs is put at \$6 billion.

By reducing the flow of water downstream during the dry season, dams allow sea water to intrude into the mouths of the impounded rivers. As a result of

the Farakka barrage on the Indo-Bangladesh border, for example, salt water has intruded some 270 miles into the Ganges delta, destroying freshwater fisheries, badly affecting plant life (including Bangladesh's largest forest, the Sunderbans), and contaminating drinking water. Moreover, many of the best sites for dams in the Himalayas are in earthquake zones or on active seismic faults.

Dams, particularly those built to generate hydroelectricity, are not a solution against the massive flooding seen in Bangladesh. Power generation requires reservoirs to be kept as full as possible, whilst flood control requires them to be as low as possible.

To prevent floodwaters from over-topping hydroelectric dams they have to open their sluices, releasing a wall of water downstream. In that respect, dams can actually cause flooding.

It should be clear, therefore, that large dams are not a solution to Bangladesh's problems, nor Nepal's, nor indeed India's. Small hydroelectric schemes, built and run by villagers, yes; but super-dams, as proposed by you, emphatically no.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS HILDYARD,
Co-editor,
The Ecologist,
Corner House, Station Road,
Sturminster Newton, Dorset.
September 7.

Trees and sympathy

From Mr T. M. Unwin

Sir, I have seen Messrs Allen's and Cross's letters (August 26 and September 1) about forestry aid in the Sudanese Sahel. May a man with 40 years' experience in Third World development, including recently in the Sudan, comment?

Tree-planting is a popular concept, though only those who have tried it realise that in arid areas it requires years of watering and protection if the seedlings are to survive. While we (the foreigners) are there to pay and supervise it is possible, on a modest scale. But as soon as we leave, all tends to be lost. Why? Because in almost all cases the national civil services, having been excellent (and nowhere more so than in the Sudan), have become demoralised, starved of funds — except for ludicrously low salaries — and quite impotent, for understandable reasons, to carry on with any development scheme started by foreigners.

This has led me to the realization that the one essential prerequisite to a "sustainable" development contribution — i.e., one which has hope of surviving

our departure — is the re-creation of an effective bureaucracy. In the absence of this development, efforts in any field will be largely wasted.

The resuscitation of an effective civil service requires the political will to do it. This, for many reasons, is usually absent as, quite apart from financial considerations, it would affect too many vested interests. In some ways the attempt at *perestroika* is also an example of this, though one which I hope will succeed; the political will seems to be there.

This letter is not an argument against assistance to underdeveloped countries, but a plea for realism. Relief operations, for example, can be very successful — as long as the aid-giver retains full control — as they are by definition of limited duration, or so one hopes! But any long-term aid which relies on national authorities for an after-life is condemned to death unless these national authorities are effective, which they almost always are not. I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
TOM UNWIN,
The Fort, Milverton,
Taunton, Somerset.
September 2.

Farming support

From Mr Nick Viney

Sir, Current problems with our balance of payments prompt me to write. As an ex-Londoner now farming in Dorset, I never cease to marvel at the efficiency and versatility of the UK farming workforce. It is without doubt one of our country's finest resources and I fear it is grossly undervalued.

Farm businesses are facing tough times, however. The common agricultural policy is rightly undergoing major surgery and many of us welcome the introduction of greater market reality provided it is managed sensibly. We are looking very hard at profitable low-input systems so that, if and when our input is controlled, we can stay in business.

But at the same time our Government is telling us that its support for research and development is going to be significantly reduced. Cuts are aimed particularly at what is termed "near market" research. Unfortu-

nately, agribusiness is not very interested in researching low-input systems for obvious reasons.

But let us not forget that real farm incomes have been falling painfully and steadily for several years. Yes, farmers should contribute, but the Government, representing the many outside farming who are pressing for a less-intensive agriculture, should also surely maintain its support.

Yours faithfully,
NICK VINEY,
Whitecliff Farm, Swanage, Dorset.
August 31.

Going one better

From Mr L. A. J. Richardson

Sir, Bishop Hugh Montefiore, in his Commentary (September 5), says that antidisestablishmentarianism could once lay claim to be the longest word in the English language. Not so: the word is floccinaucinihilipilification, one letter more.

Yours faithfully,
L. A. J. RICHARDSON,
49 High Road,
Bushey Heath, Hertfordshire.

Seeing red

From Mr J. M. Osler

Sir, To me, the most significant, and disgraceful, aspect revealed by Brigadier Bevan's letter (September 6) is that he was expected to queue [at Customs] for 45 minutes for the privilege of paying taxes. Is it too much to ask that the authorities should make this already painful duty less arduous?

Why, for instance, cannot the red channel be provided with return forms to be filled in by the taxpayer with his name, address, and dutiable articles, in the same way as he fills in his income-tax return? An assessment could then be raised in due course.

Yours faithfully,
J. M. OSLER,
Burgham Court House,
Strangers Common,
Guildford,
Surrey.
September 7.

Glyndebourne grouse

From Miss Ann Stein

Sir, The letters (August 15, 19, 20 and 25) since Bernard Levin's pean of praise (August 8) to the perfection of Glyndebourne have rather strayed off his original point. I, too, had been privileged to attend a fine performance of *Falstaff* to savour an excellent meal in whichever of the three Wallops my generous host had reserved a table; and would have wandered through the enchanting gardens had not the elements that evening decreed otherwise.

However, a feeling of uneasiness disturbed me, and finally demanded expression in this form. Why, I started wondering, should I be accorded the privilege of partaking of such perfection, simply because I (or rather my

host) was able to afford such an evening out? (Tickets, I believe, were £60 each, the meal £25 per head without wine).

Of course money alone does not enable one to buy a ticket for Glyndebourne — membership of a (full) subscribers' list is a prerequisite. But is one not, in effect, endorsing a financial "apartheid" as unjust and entrenched as that political system we all abhor? At Covent Garden and the English National Opera one can at least buy tickets for £2.50.

I hope that my annual invitations continue to arrive, but I do wish I did not have to feel so guilty about enjoying my treat.

Yours faithfully,
ANN STEIN,
112 Albert Street, NW1.
September 3.

Doing without a postal service

From Mr M. John

Sir, After several months of research, a great deal of hard work, many late nights, and a very large phone bill, I have just had the satisfaction of completing my company's new business mailing list.

The printed matter is now ready, the envelopes have been typed, and the forms needed to take advantage of the Post Office's "direct-mail offer for first-time users" have been sent for — they're still in the post!

The "offer" runs out in two weeks. My patience won't last that long. The entire mailshot is now being delivered by hand.

Whilst this may be expensive, it is certainly effective and, at the end of the day, the measly £190 I would have saved on postage is nothing when compared to the benefits of providing what is probably the only item of "mail" that most of my potential clients will receive.

In future I will use couriers, I will use the telephone, and I will use my fax machine. One thing I will not be using is the post. Unless, of course, this ridiculous monopoly is broken and someone comes up with a sensible alternative.

Yours sincerely,
MIKE JOHN, Partner,
The John Nicholson Partnership,
Essex House, High Street,
Great Dunmow, Essex.
September 7.

From Mr Derek Lambert
Sir, Congratulations on using fax to maintain the flow of opinion to your columns during the postal dispute. But why are the fax numbers only temporary?

After all, this letter has cost me less than 19pence to send to you (admittedly after ignoring the capital cost of the fax machine) and I know it has been delivered less than one minute after I started to send it.

Altogether a better way to communicate the written word.

Yours faithfully,
DEREK LAMBERT,
8 Primrose Lane,
Sherwood Grange, Womersley,
Wokingham, Berkshire.
September 7.

From Mr Alan Perrin
Sir, In this era of alternative mailing systems, yesterday's excuse for delayed post received at this office has been, "The courier fell off his bicycle." Yours faithfully,
A. PERRIN, Manager,
Moledean Group of Companies,
54/56 Euston Street, NW1.
September 8.

Harsh words

From Mr Dan Conaghan

Sir, The most unlovely verb in the English language (letter, September 6) is, without doubt, "fax". The most distressing thing about the present postal strike is that this and similarly abominable words will become increasingly established.

A speedy settlement is therefore necessary to save the English language from the verbs "to fax", "to Red Star", and "to TNT" (as in "I'll have to TNT this over to you tonight"). Yours faithfully,
DAN CONAGHAN,
86 Long Street,
Easingwold, York.
September 6.

From Mr J. J. King
Sir, May I offer Mr Henry Galazka (September 6) not one but three verbs which, if not in themselves unlovelier than "chomp", must surely be so when encountered in the conspiratorially-styled and over-theatrical office memorandum (Subject: Invitation to lunchtime drinks) — namely, "imbibe", "sup", and (*nunc est bibendum*) "quaff". Yours faithfully,
J. J. KING,
67 Hadrian's Ride,
Enfield, Middlesex.
September 6.

From Dr Jason Ditton
Sir, "Lowre, and poute, and chafe. Brings all the household in a damped" (1604, O.E.D.).

Chomp is an onomatopoeic gastronomic contraction. Perhaps we have better teeth, if not better taste.

Semantically,
JASON DITTON,
192 Wilton Street, Glasgow 20.
September 6.

From Mr Stephen Ward
Sir, An unlovelier word than "chomp"? How about "unlovelier"?

Yours faithfully,
STEPHEN WARD,
Triscombe, Jubilee Road,
Forest Green,
Stroud, Gloucestershire.
September 6.

From Mr Jeremy Maurice
Sir, "To diarize", as in "I'll diarize that for ongoing action". Yours by fax,
JEREMY MAURICE,
2 Crown Office Row,
The Temple, EC4.
September 6.

From Mr A. C. Keen
Sir, "To tax". Yours faithfully,
A. C. KEEN,
14 Roxborough Park,
Harrow-on-the-Hill,
Middlesex.
September 6.

During the postal dispute letters to the Editor may be sent to a temporary fax number, (01) 782 5864.

THE ARTS

TELEVISION

History distorted

When A.J.P. Taylor wrote that the Munich Agreement of 1938 was "a triumph for all that was best and most enlightened in British life", he was doubtless being sardonic. But he was making the point that, however infamous a betrayal Munich became in the long term, in the short term it seemed a major achievement which averted war in Europe and fell well within British moral guidelines about the self-determination of peoples.

Channel 4's huge documentary *Peace in Our Time* last night looked at the question from the very different point of view of Czechoslovakia itself, and made Britain — rather than Germany — the primary scapegoat in dismembering the last remaining democracy of central Europe. It achieved this by a quite relentless onslaught on the person of Neville Chamberlain, who was accused of lying, cheating, bullying, taking decisions without reference to his Cabinet, and of selling a far-off country of which he knew nothing in order to buy a temporary respite in the European crisis. John Cleese and Peter Cook fooling around with the famous piece of paper were intercut with Chamberlain's own naive pronouncements.

Now this will not do. It is true that Chamberlain's public statements during his discussions with Hitler were of crushing ineptitude, and that his attitude to Hitler personally verged on the insanely credulous. But to lay the blame for all that at the door of Chamberlain personally is to exaggerate.

Just to take one example of the many missing pieces in this two-hour jigsaw: the person of Neville Henderson, Britain's ambassador to Berlin, was entirely absent, and it was his strongly pro-German communications which helped to convince the British government that Hitler could be dealt with reasonably.

The film, made by Czech directors but written by a British historian, John Charmley, was far too diffuse and over-inclusive: interviews with the man who served tea to the leaders rubbed shoulders with film of the Chelsea Arts Ball and Jewish persecutions. But, by giving ridiculous sobriquets to all the participants (Hitler was the godfather, Chamberlain the dealer), it reduced the leader of the Sudeten Germans, Henlein, to "Hitler's gymnastic instructor".

These absurdities strengthened the film's passion, but hardly improved its history. And it never mentioned one factor which, from the Czech point of view, must surely be significant: that, whatever the country's later fate, the Munich Agreement ensured that Czechoslovakia remained out of the war and that the finest capital of central Europe remained intact.

William Holmes



Charm and conviction: Navin Chowdhry in John Schlesinger's *Madame Sousatzka*

THEATRE

Stuck Latchmere

It is the habit of good fairies to go about their business in heavy disguise, but seldom to the extent of Rick Friend's heroine, Bella: a punk motor-bike courier who descends on a nest of Yuppies waving a flick-knife in place of a wand.

Her first lucky victim is Tony, who normally spends his days agonizing over the falling yen and going out to eat greasy lunches. Bella encounters him in a broken-down lift, deluges him in four-letter insults, and then storms into his office at tense moment of international trading to demand payment for her broken personal stereo. She then runs him to earth in a Fulham flat where she collects two more scalps from his friends Claire and Trevor — respectively a desperately inhibited make-up artist and a former hippie eking out a living on a mass-circulation magazine.

As Bella, and her creator, see things, these characters have all

got stuck in life-denying routines, disguising their essential unhappiness behind a barricade of CD units, BMWs and expensive account meals. From the spectator's viewpoint, it seems they were all getting on fine until she came along, and smashed up their lives by bullying them into true confessions.

As played by William Jongeneel and Pancho Russell, an interesting relationship fitfully takes shape between the two men: with the blinkered businessman visibly glazing over whenever the art director launches into his ineffectual hymns to far-away places and primal forces. Otherwise, the piece is occupied by satirized attitudes rather than characters. In the case of Tony, with his incessant explosions of spite, petulance, and cultural name-dropping, it is less satire than incrimination. Bella, by contrast, is credited with a taste for opera and vegetarian food, so as to offset the stereotype of her bomber jacket and council estate upbringing. Sara Crowe plays her with an almighty punch, with devastating effect beyond the author's benevolent intentions.

Irving Wardle

William Holmes

David Robinson's final Venice report highlights another British success

Youth is not all

CINEMA

Francis Zeffirelli's *Young Toscanini* had its world premiere at the Venice Film Festival in less than favourable circumstances. Feeling against Zeffirelli had been building up since the start of his personal campaign against Martin Scorsese's *The Last Temptation of Christ*, some weeks ago. The outcome was that, at the first screening, loud boos and cat-calls greeted every appearance of his name on the credits of the film.

The film itself hardly retrieved anything, except that the malice turned to noisy merriment, as *Young Toscanini* developed into unintentional parody of the worst kind of Hollywood bio-pic. It relates three months of the 18-year-old Toscanini's life. Having told the management of La Scala to go to hell, he accompanies a South American opera tour as a rehearsal pianist; shows his mettle by taming a great prima donna (Elizabeth Taylor), also mistress of the King of Brazil; and takes over the baton for *Aida*, to an instant triumph.

The characters and dialogue ("Go out there and kill 'em") might come from any back-stage musical, though the film achieves unprecedented heights of absurdity: the little Maestro conducting an Atlantic storm set to *Tristan and Isolde*, or Elizabeth Taylor, inspired by Toscanini's idealism, pausing in the middle of *Aida* to make a protest against slavery.

Elizabeth Taylor battles through, a star despite everything. One feels more pity for C. Thomas Howell (the boy from *E.T.*) who plays Toscanini with touching earnestness. *Young Toscanini* is a milestone in the cinema of kitsch and camp.

John Schlesinger's *Madame Sousatzka* is also about a musical prodigy. Adapted by Schlesinger and Ruth Prawer Jhabvala

from Bernice Rubens's novel, it stars Shirley Maclaine as the eccentric, dedicated music teacher, with a fierce parental dedication to her prize pupil. In the book, the pupil is Jewish; here he is Indian, played with great charm and musical conviction by 15-year-old Navin Chowdhry.

With its highly coloured characters, the well-dramatized tensions between Madame, the boy's mother, and others who seek to exploit the talent she tries to protect and nurture; and its general high craftsmanship, the film belongs to an older and honourable tradition of British cinema. But its subjects — the commercialization and decline of culture, the pervasion of the exploiters and entrepreneurs — are very contemporary and deep-felt. The musical element of the film also is highly intelligent and emotionally effective.

In 1816, Byron and Shelley spent the summer at the Villa Deodati on Lake Leman, with the daughters of William Godwin, Mary and Claire, and Byron's companion Dr Polidori. Their recreations bore fruit in Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein* and Polidori's *The Vampire*. For a century and a half a footnote in literary history, this house party has suddenly caught the fancy of film-makers. After Ken Russell's *Gothic*, and a Spanish film, *Rowing in the Wind*, Ivan Passer's *Haunted Summer* was unveiled at Venice.

Magnificently photographed by Giuseppe Rotunno, the ambitions of the film are betrayed by an awful over-written script (by Lewis John Carlino, from a novel by Anne Edwards), shifting unpredictably from stilted period style to Eighties idiom. The predominantly

American cast speak with faultless, if variegated English accents. In the film's strongest performance, as Shelley, Eric Stoltz has diction that few English actors could better.

This remarkable new phenomenon of American actors emulating English actors appears more amusingly in Danny Huston's *Mr North*, in which the redoubtable Harry Dean Stanton plays a Cockney butler.

Mr North still credits John Huston (who died a year ago) as both executive producer and writer. The part he was to have played in the film, a rich old Rhode Island eccentric, now goes to Robert Mitchum.

The story is a gently charming and whimsical tale by Thornton Wilder, about whose kindness sets the selfish society of Newport Rhode Island by the ears. Huston's son Danny directs his first film with an artless playfulness not unlike Huston's own, and a marvellous cast, including Lauren Bacall and Anjelica Huston.

The Venice Magistrates' vindication of *The Last Temptation of Christ* has evidently frustrated the bored local police force. Now they have turned their attention to an Australian film, *Ghosts of the Civil Dead*. The director, John Hillcoat, and the head of the Australian delegation have been temporarily taken in for questioning, apparently on suspicion that the film subverts authority and the police.

The film, though unsparing in its violence, is a well-structured and intelligent essay on social control. Synthesized from actual cases, but set in a mythical high-security prison, it shows how gratuitous repression only further criminalizes both prisoners and keepers and escalates violence to a pitch of horror. Not pleasant viewing, it hardly merits the anxieties of the law.

DONALD COOPER

THEATRE

Stuck Latchmere

It is the habit of good fairies to go about their business in heavy disguise, but seldom to the extent of Rick Friend's heroine, Bella: a punk motor-bike courier who descends on a nest of Yuppies waving a flick-knife in place of a wand.

Her first lucky victim is Tony, who normally spends his days agonizing over the falling yen and going out to eat greasy lunches. Bella encounters him in a broken-down lift, deluges him in four-letter insults, and then storms into his office at tense moment of international trading to demand payment for her broken personal stereo. She then runs him to earth in a Fulham flat where she collects two more scalps from his friends Claire and Trevor — respectively a desperately inhibited make-up artist and a former hippie eking out a living on a mass-circulation magazine.

As Bella, and her creator, see things, these characters have all

Ophelia's night

Hamlet Phoenix Theatre

The curious thing about Kenneth Branagh's tigerish, tight-lipped Hamlet is how emotionally uninvolved he is: when he is acting with other characters, the emotional weight falls immediately on to them; when he is on his own, in the soliloquies, he fails to move us. The first soliloquy is especially distanced; the pain and disturbance it expresses appear inaccessible to the character.

The antic disposition is certainly a great boon for this characterization: it liberates physical energy, always a Branagh strong-point, and a more than usually violent and destructive wit. As the play proceeds one can begin to work out a reason for his prevailing coldness: this is a character consumed by an icy hatred which leaves little room for melancholy, disappointed idealism, world-weariness or any of the other ills to which Hamlets have been prone. When he says, in the fourth act, "from this time forth/My thoughts be bloody or be

nothing worth", his thoughts have been bloody from the beginning.

If that sounds dangerously reductive, it is, but the ill-effects only become seriously apparent in the final act. That is partly because Kenneth Branagh, even when misguided, or miscast, has physical magnetism and superb articulation, but also because other characters gain from this.

Foremost among them is Ophelia who, in Sophie Thompson's startlingly intense performance, becomes the tragic centre of the play. With high forehead, Grecian hair-do and high-waisted Edwardian dress, she is beautiful, but if the look is reminiscent of Lily Langtry, the character is more that of Emily Pankhurst.

It is true that something of the extra weight of this Ophelia comes from her being on stage rather more often than usual: "To be or not to be" is addressed to her from a range of a few inches, and it is she who is sent to bring on the recorders. But this is justified by the terrific sense of passion she conveys, barely suppressed at first in an unusually tense interview with Laertes, cruelly frustrated in



Suffering sister, cool brother: Sophie Thompson and Kenneth Branagh

a sadistic nursery scene, then unleashed into mad scenes of sombre power — the dramatic high-points of this production.

Richard Easton's wolfishly grinning Claudius recovers after a strange start (he is made to read his opening speech from a crib sheet, like a Danish Reagan in the days before confession of guilt more affecting than any of Hamlet's meditations). In Dearbilla Molloy's Gertrude he has a consort of patent sexual allure, who makes Hamlet's disparagement of her sexuality in the closet scene appear

especially un-called-for.

Derek Jacobi's production, barely staged in glossy black with four red curtains, shares some of the coldness of the central performance. In its favour are the clarity and pace which are becoming Renaissance hallmarks: I would prefer a little less pace and more cutting, for certain speeches are rushed off their feet — Ophelia's sadly muted. Lack of pomp and ceremony weaken both the first court scene and the final Death-feast, which has a perfunctory air.

Harry Eyres

Black Magic Duke's Head

How do you spice up a four-handed suburban sit-com whose characters are too sit-comatose to generate any kind of plot momentum? Paint a pentagram on the living room floor (anyone seen *Havel's Temptation*), put on black cloaks, mutter some unconvincing incantations and Old Nick's your uncle. Well, not so much your uncle, as your least favourite television personality, a sort of Bruce Forsyth with a sharp tail. Yes, just when you thought it

was safe to go back to the theatre, the Faust legend has reared its horns again, and in a most unlikely place. I am not referring to *Duke's Head*, a prepossessing pub theatre with an excellent acting space, handsomely filled in this production by David Gillies, but to that orbital fringe (M25 seldom out of earshot and all too frequently in the conversation) where sit-coms, and apparently the writer of this piece, Simon Moss, have their being. What would happen if the devil appeared in, say, *Neighbours*? He'd look a bit out of place? Mmm, I thought so.

I suppose I should go back to the beginning. Robin and Sarah live somewhere in suburbia. They have a house, a car and two friends, irrepressibly jokey Richard (the excellent Steven Alvey) and pretty but vacuous Kate. Robin (performed as if for an invisible studio audience by Paul Mori) for some reason dissatisfied with his lot, first tries the football pools and then a little black magic. He manages to summon up the aforementioned devil, who happens to be called Leonard and is played with commendable spirit by Mike Cassidy. Leonard offers the usual things, (mainly money) in exchange for

Robin's soul (heard this somewhere before?). His what? The glaring fact that none of these characters (except perhaps for Robin's long-suffering wife, played with genuine feeling by Sally Campbell), give any evidence of possessing such a thing, robs the piece of any dramatic tension.

An examination of how and to what these characters did sell their souls, in exchange for this tepid non-existence, might make an interesting play. Of course, it might involve the writer too. And the devil could have something to do with television.

H.E.

Trumpeter justifies reputation

Bobby Bradford Jazz Cafe, London

As a foil for Ornette Coleman in the early 1960s, Bobby Bradford rarely commanded as much attention as his predecessor, Don Cherry. That, in part, was simply due to a lack of recording opportunities. Nevertheless, Bradford did enough to develop a reputation as one of the most gifted trumpeters of the post-free generation.

For his current tour Bradford — now in his mid-50s — is once

JAZZ

again working alongside the British drummer John Stevens, continuing a relationship which first blossomed more than a decade and a half ago. They make a fruitful combination, Stevens' strident crossbeats constantly provoking fresh bursts of ideas. The quintet's first set was structured around deceptively simple motifs underpinned by Stevens and the bassist Paul Rodgers. As each theme came

slowly to an end, Rodgers' solos, always crisp and economical, set the stage for the next phase of improvisation.

At its best the music evoked the furious, raw energy of a Mingus group. In between, the loose structure inevitably led to diffuse stretches where the dense interplay lost momentum. Bradford himself was at his most inspiring when the tempo dropped to a slow blues vamp, allowing him to embellish solos with his gloriously burnished tone.

Clive Davis

Happy gamble

BBC WSO/Otaka Albert Hall/Radio 3

Mahler's Fifth Symphony, this epic testpiece, revealed how far the BBC Welsh has progressed, in morale and standards, since gaining symphonic size and status. Nearly all the technical challenges were handsomely met. The brass principals, though not exactly beguiling in tone, attacked the critical solos with a confidence bordering on aggression.

The Scherzo was a great-hearted team effort, and the strings played the Adagio with immense concentration and a unanimity that suggested strong leadership from

PROMENADE CONCERT

the front desks. They survived the finale's fugal jungle well, too, though sometimes the seraphs quavered when they should have bustled.

There were slight intonation problems at times, and in the second movement some momentary lapses in ensemble, but a sense of discipline and careful preparation was apparent throughout.

For that the BBC Welsh's latest principal conductor, Tadaaki Otaka (who holds the same position with the Tokyo Philharmonic), deserves credit, though his interpretation was very uneven. The frenetic climaxes buzzed effectively enough, but many slow passages needed a far more characteristic show of rubato.

Sometimes, too, transitional moments sagged through insufficient delineation of detail, as if the conductor was mentally relishing future glories and neglecting present practicalities. Cécile Ousset was the soloist in Schumann's Piano Concerto. Digging did not inevitably contact the specified ivory, but Ousset does know how to make this concerto work.

The delicacy needed to acerate Schumann's chunky chords was beautifully balanced by a feel for the rhetoric — even grandeur — of the strong harmonic progressions and the finale's fanfare themes.

Richard Morrison

Partners meeting again

Richard Morrison talks to Richard Armstrong, who conducts Welsh National Opera in Verdi's *Falstaff* in Cardiff tomorrow

Returning: Richard Armstrong

When Richard Armstrong raises his baton for Verdi's *Falstaff* in Cardiff tomorrow, he will be renewing two auspicious partnerships. One is with the theatre director Peter Stein, who staged WNO's fine *Otello* three years ago, and has now returned to opera on the condition that Armstrong again immerse himself thoroughly in Stein's famously rigorous preparations.

Armstrong's other renewed relationship will be with Welsh National Opera; he returns to the company for the first time since December 1986, when *Götterdämmerung* provided a suitably epic finale to his 18 years with WNO, 14 as musical director. "Actually, when I left I didn't particularly want to! My enjoyment of the company, particularly of the orchestra, which I'd built from scratch, was never greater than at the end." Why, then, did he go? "I suppose that, having presided over WNO's rise, I was terrified that I might preside over its fall. Now that I feel more detached, I'll probably conduct one new production here each season."

"Also, 14 years of a company reflecting one musical director's tastes is long enough. Considerable areas of the repertoire were being neglected." That ceased at WNO with the arrival in 1976 of Brian McMaster as general administrator. "It was Brian's hobby, if you like, to pick interesting producers for specific operas; my part was

building a relationship, seeing it through and making it work. On the whole, if Brian and I didn't agree on something, it didn't get done." What did get done was the Ring, the superb Janáček cycle, and some of the decade's most provocative productions of late-Romantic operas.

Armstrong learnt the operatic trade in the best school: he was a répétiteur at Covent Garden in the late 1960s, working with Solti, Giulini, Klemperer and Kubelick. "It was a wonderful masterclass for me. Whatever one may think of Solti as an interpreter, one thing is unarguable: he was a fantastic opera-house musical director. He knew all the tricks, what the priorities were. All I tried to do when I had the responsibility was to model WNO in a similar way. And I think the fact that I was definitely a resident musical director helped the ensemble feeling."

Most of his invitations since leaving Cardiff have come, inevitably, from opera companies. He has done Janáček in Scotland, the Stein *Otello* in Brussels, *Don Carlos* in Geneva, and an ill-fated *Ballo al Covent Garden* ("four different tenors in almost as many performances, a dismal experience").

Since Armstrong is, as yet, unknown in America, the new *Falstaff* — which will travel extensively — is a crucial showcase for him. "Yes, this is the best sort of co-production, where cast, conductor and director stick together from first to last." The WNO cast and orchestra take it to New York next February.

The casting for *Falstaff* has been carefully done: the principals have fine vocal gifts, but they are people who are also interested in ensemble and, in a sense, being subservient to ensemble. There's no point in having a soloist in *Falstaff* who doesn't also feel the sheer joy of participating in four-part harmony — or, more to the point, nine-part fugue."

And, with Stein directing, there has been an inevitable emphasis on integrating musical and theatrical ideas. "Because Peter is not, by main occupation, an opera producer, what makes him most nervous is the prospect of a classic confrontation between conductor and director. So we've been talking it through, and singing it through, on and off for the last 18 months."

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Look go

Mark Elder came to became PM. He tells

A's Mark Elder takes up the baton as the new conductor of the National Opera. He is a decade removed from his first job as a conductor, when he was a student at the Royal College of Music. He has since worked with some of the world's great orchestras, including the Berlin Philharmonic, the Vienna Philharmonic, and the London Symphony Orchestra. He is now 35 and has already won several awards for his conducting.

Laurence Olivier's production of *Henry V* is a masterpiece of stagecraft. The production is a tour de force of acting and directing. Olivier's vision of the play is one of a young king who is a true leader. He is a man who is willing to sacrifice everything for his country. He is a man who is a true hero.

In *Henry V*, Olivier's production is a masterpiece of stagecraft. The production is a tour de force of acting and directing. Olivier's vision of the play is one of a young king who is a true leader. He is a man who is willing to sacrifice everything for his country. He is a man who is a true hero.

Down b not far c

A sense of place helped B... break a writer's block...

THE ARTS

Looking east,
going west

Mark Elder came to power at ENO in the week that Mrs Thatcher became PM. He tells Hilary Finch that he, too, has no plans to quit

As Mark Elder takes up the baton for *La traviata*, English National Opera's first new production of the season, he approaches his 10th year as the company's music director. It is a decade in which the triumvirate formed by Lord Harewood (later Peter Jonas), David Pountney and Elder himself has put the company on a new, confident and controversial footing.

Houses have risen to 90 per cent for two-thirds of their productions; drama critics, seeing on the boards of the Coliseum the very dramatic dynamism they are missing in their customary haunts, have expressed the wish to change into music critics overnight. ENO's provocative recreations of standard repertoire — complete with juke boxes, parking lots and chainsaws — have fuelled a fierce debate on the whole question of "producer-opera".

La traviata looks set to continue the tradition. It is rumoured to be about Violetta as the object of artistic exploitation: "consumption" will take on a whole new meaning as the consumer audience finds itself cast in the role of voyeur extraordinaire. "There is an element, yes, of the audience as voyeur," Elder says. "But I have to say that Verdi is not about ideas. In bringing a work to life on the stage, ideas have to be part of the recipe, but the heart is the poetic, lyrical treatment of the subject as it is fleshed out in Verdi's music, and David Pountney knows that as well as I."

In opening with revivals of Pountney's controversial *Carmen* and Jonathan Miller's 1940s-style *Tosca*, the season has already received as many critical harpoons as box-office receipts. Elder is enthusiastically dogmatic that they are still on the right path. "What matters to us above everything else is the interest and healthy support from as wide a part of the public as possible, and in those terms the beginning of the season was a record for us; and advance booking, too, is unusually encouraging."

While the debate continues as to whether what Elder calls his company's "reassessment"

of the standard repertoire is desperate resurrection of the dead, or vigorous recreation of the living, his responsibility, he feels, is equally towards those operas which have never really been part of the company's repertoire. Elder's continuing preoccupation is with eastern Europe. The past years have unfolded a revelatory Janacek series, with *Osud* and *Mr Broucek* breaking entirely new ground; Dargomizhsky's *Stone Guest* was a brave experiment; now Rimsky-Korsakov's *Christmas Eve* is scheduled for this year's seasonal entertainment.

The Rimsky stimulus began in Australia. While Elder was serving his apprenticeship at the new Sydney Opera House in the early 1970s, he came across a little dark bookshop in Melbourne. "It was called the Spring Bookshop, and it was a Russian Communist shop, run by a little old lady who had no idea what was in stock. I picked up scores of *Queen of Spades*, songs, operas — and a complete recording of Rimsky's *May Night*."

His eyes turn upward to three faded scarlet volumes at the top of the bookcase. "But also I found some Gogol: his *Evenings on a Farm near Dikanka* and *Milgorod*. In those two volumes of early stories is the basis for an extraordinary number of operas: *Sorochintsi Fair*, *Taras Bulba*, Tchaikovsky's *Two Slippers* as well as *May Night*, and *Christmas Eve*."

"*Christmas Eve* is stunningly well written for orchestra, full of lovely characters, brimming with theatricality and — that forgotten word — charm. I hope very much that it will be the beginning of something, not just a one-off."

Another important beginning for Elder is ENO's series of new British opera commissions. It is due to start, on schedule, next May with David Blake's newly composed *The Plumber's Gift*. "David and I wanted to think of a way to honour our responsibility to the country's new generation of exciting young composers, and to do it in a way which would stand up to the test of our financial stringencies. Each opera has to

be not one minute over two hours long; it mustn't use the chorus at all; it shouldn't be for an over-large cast; it must use the existing orchestra without any extras. The slot will be protected each year." Those receiving protection in the forthcoming years include John Butler, whose *Bacchae* is already in gestation, Stephen Oliver, Jonathan Harvey, Judith Weir and Giles Swayne.

In December, Elder makes his debut at the Met with *Figaro*. He has been at the helm for new productions at Bayreuth and Berlin; is he itching to spread his own wings? "Well, this was obviously an invitation which I couldn't turn down; but it is the only overseas opera engagement I've accepted while being music director here."

Another proposition he couldn't resist was the chance to become music director of the Rochester Philharmonic Orchestra in the United States. That starts officially this time next year, and will mean a commitment to nine or 10 out of 16 of their winter concerts.

Elder came into power in 1979 with Mrs Thatcher: will he survive her? "Well, since I was asked to take over in the very same week as she was, I do sometimes ask myself whether, if she is returned to power, it means I ought to stay on a bit longer! But seriously, for a job this size, one has to think in terms of a minimum of 10 years' commitment. And I want to go on longer than that: just as long, in fact, as I feel that the results are positive and fruitful."



Dynamic decade: Mark Elder's policy of bringing juke-boxes and chainsaws to the Coliseum stage has fuelled fierce debate

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Down but
not far out

A sense of place helped Barry Unsworth break a writer's block — in a novel

The usual fate for a novel which has a hero who is a blocked novelist, snivelling about his condition, is straight out of the window after 30 pages. Fortunately for the reader however, Benson, the 63-year-old novelist of Barry Unsworth's *Sugar and Rum*, does not repine. His arteries may be hardening, but, as he wanders the appalling streets of Toxteth and inner Liverpool, his "mind is as soft as ever for impressions".

"I would never write about a writer again," Unsworth says. "But it did arise from my own blockage, my first after nine novels, so I haven't done too badly." Is it the form, is it the characters, or is it the language that will not make itself available? "I'm sure it differs from writer to writer. In my case it was a question of confidence in what I was doing. Belief is a kind of energy for me."

Was there, then, a turning point, some spark or breakthrough? "Yes, and it is almost always concerned with place, with me. The streets of Liverpool were as much a dynamic as was the island for Pascal's [from his novel *Pascal's Island*], or Venice for *Stone Virgin*. I am also obsessed with an event which happens in Conrad's *The Nigger of the Narcissus*, in which the black sailor, after a lifetime of malingering, finally does get sick, and it transforms him."

Unsworth was born in a colliery village in County Durham, to a family who were all coal miners, "although my father had the good sense to get out". After good A levels ("my intellectual peak") he went to Manchester University. He began writing fiction



City solution: Barry Unsworth

while living in Greece, teaching English during the 1960s. *Rum and Sugar*, however, is seething with a sense of injustice about what has happened to the North. "A lot of people who grow up in the North move to the South and become — horrible word — bourgeoisified, and then write novels which don't deal with the divide, and social problems and so on; well, they become guilty. One should be writing about such things; but that is nonsense of course, because you can only write about things you want to, not ought to."

I mention that Benson's reminiscences of Anzio in *Sugar and Rum* are particularly strong. "They did threaten to get too big for the book," Unsworth says. "Perhaps they would make another short novel. That would be two more books derived from one novel about a blocked novelist. Don't tell any one else this idea."

Chris Peachment

Sugar and Rum by Barry Unsworth is published on September 19 by Hamish Hamilton, £11.95

TELEVISION AND RADIO

Compiled by Peter Dear
and Jane Rackham

BBC1

- 6.00** Ceefax AM, News headlines, weather, travel and sports bulletins.
- 6.40** Leon Errol in *Oh, Professor, Behave!* (b/w). 6.55 *Weather*.
- 7.00** Breakfast Time with Jeremy Paxman and Pamela Armstrong. Includes national and international news at 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30. 7.25, 7.55 and 8.25 regional news and travel reports at 7.27, 7.57 and 8.27. 8.55 Regional news and weather followed by Geoffrey Smith's *World of Flowers*. The history of old-fashioned roses (r). 9.30 *Model World*. Powerboats (r).
- 10.00** News and weather followed by *The Fighting Devil Dogs* (b/w). The final episode of the cliffhanger adventure series. 10.25 Children's BBC introduced by Simon Parkin begins with *Play School* presented by Mike Amatt and Liz Watts (r). 10.50 *The Fashions*, with the voice of Leonard Rossiter (r). 10.55 Five to Eleven. A reading by Alan Bennett.
- 11.00** News and weather followed by *Arthur Negus Enjoys*. Accompanied by Simon Bull, Arthur Negus admires Chatsworth House, near Bakewell, Derbyshire (r).
- 11.30** Cook with Clere. Clere Connery prepares breakfast with a choice of cereals, wholemeal bread, a vitality drink or muesli and yoghurt (first shown on BBC Northern Ireland). News and weather followed by *Dallas* (r). 12.50 *Cartoon*. 12.55 Regional news and weather.
- 1.00** One O'Clock News with Philip Hayton. Weather. 1.30 *Neighbours*. Rob receives a lecture from Mrs Mangel.
- 1.50** International Golf. Harry Carpenter introduces second round action in the Panasonic European Open from Sunningdale Golf Club.

BBC2

- 6.55** Open University: Photosynthesis - the first Nanosecond. Ends at 7.20. 9.00 *Ceefax*.
- 12.30** Open University Showcase: From Child to Pupil 12.55 *A World Within*. 1.20 *Life and Smith* (r). 1.35 *Ceefax*. 1.55 *Weekend Outlook* (r).
- 2.00** News and weather followed by 100 Greatest Sporting Moments. The 1975 Wimbledon men's singles final between Arthur Ashe and Jimmy Connors (r).
- 2.25** Racing from Goodwood and Golf. The 2.40, 3.10, 3.40 and 4.10 races; and second round action in the Panasonic European Open from Sunningdale Golf Club. Includes news and weather at 3.00 and 3.55.
- 3.30** *Flame Charlie* Chen at the Circus (1938, b/w) starring Warner Oland. The investigator probes into the death of a much-hated circus owner. Directed by Harry Lachman.
- 4.40** *Big Game Hunting* (b/w) starring Ned Sparks as a man at an employment agency trying to hire a new maid.
- 7.00** DEF II Animation Week. Includes an interview with Steve Barron, director of the pop group A-ha's latest video.
- 8.00** Friday Report. Can the up-to-millions houses needed in the south-east be built without spoiling the countryside? (see Variations for other regions' programmes)
- 8.30** *Gardeners' World* from Barroddale.
- 9.00** *Flame Charlie* (1938) starring Warner Oland. The investigator probes into the death of a much-hated circus owner. Directed by Harry Lachman.
- 11.35** *Championship Darts*. The semifinals of the Unipart British Professional Championship.
- 12.15** *Sam Clean Slate* (1981) starring Philippe Noiret. A black comedy about an unhappy French colonial policeman who stumbles on an unorthodox revenge on those who have been giving him a hard time. Directed by Bertrand Tavernier. (English subtitles). Ends at 2.25.

ITV/LONDON

- 6.00** TV-am begins with *The Morning Programme* introduced by Richard Keys; 7.00 *Good Morning Britain* presented by Anne Diamond and Mike Morris. After Nine includes Russell Grant's weekend horoscopes.
- 9.25** *Thames news and weather* 9.30 *Runway*. Travel and general knowledge quiz hosted by Richard Hodge and Mike Morris. Learning with puppets (r). 10.20 *News headlines* 10.25 *Thames news and weather*.
- 10.30** *Flick: Tommy the Toreador* (1950) starring Tommy Steele, Janet Munro and Sidney James. Musical comedy about a young British seaman in Spain who is tricked into becoming a toreador. Directed by John Paddy Carstairs.
- 12.00** *Dancing*. John Blacking explores the history of theatre dance. 12.30 *Santa Barbara*.
- 1.00** *News at One* with Jon Snow. 1.20 *Thames news and weather*.
- 1.30** *Living Memories*. Children from Columba Primary School in east London tape the reminiscences of some of the characters who live in Spitalfields 2.00 *The Bill* (r). 2.55 *Home Cookery Club* (r). 3.00 *Take the High Road*. The police continue their enquiries 3.25 *Thames news and weather* 3.30 *Santa Barbara*. Australian family drama series.
- 4.00** *Scrubby Do*. Cartoon (r). 4.10 *Coolby A Grape*. Variety quiz show presented by Stuart Taylor. Special guests are the Krankses.
- 4.45** *Spooked*. How South Africa's black and coloured children survive under their country's apartheid system.
- 5.10** *Spooked Update* 5.15 *Spooked*. General knowledge quiz game presented by Bob Holmes.
- 5.45** *News* with Alastair Stewart. 6.00 *LWT News*.

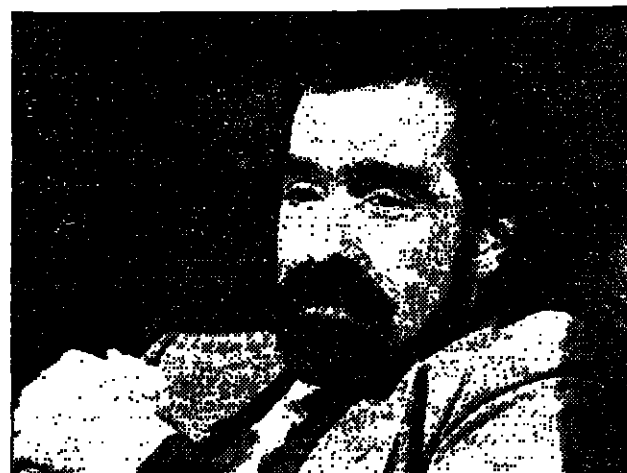
CHANNEL 4

- 12.00** *Woman in View* (r). 12.30 *Business Daily*.
- 1.00** *Sesame Street*.
- 2.00** *Cartoon*. Part six of Julian Bream's series tracing the story of the Spanish guitar (r).
- 2.30** *Channel 4 News* from Doncaster. Bruce Scott introduces coverage of the 2.35, 3.05, 3.40 *Laurent Perrier Champagne Stakes* and 4.10 *News*.
- 4.30** *Fifteen to One*. General knowledge quiz game.
- 5.00** *Scarecrow and Mrs King*. A new series about two United States secret government agency operatives, this afternoon.
- 5.10** *US Air Force* official selling top secret military equipment to an enemy power.
- 6.00** *The Chart Show*.
- 7.00** *Channel 4 News* with Peter Siddons and Nick Gowing. Weather.
- 7.55** *Book Choice*. Author and theatre critic Charles Osborne reviews the first volume of the biography of George Bernard Shaw by Michael Holroyd. (Oracle)
- 8.00** *Masterworks*. This first of a new series of ten programmes featuring paintings from New York's Museum of Modern Art focuses on *Parables* by Umberto Boccioni.
- 8.15** *Right Talk*. Punishment and the community is discussed by, among others, Dr Sybil Eisenack, a JP; Terry Bone, a prison governor; and Basil Phillips Griffiths, an ex-police officer.
- 9.00** *The Golden Girls*. (Oracle)
- 9.30** *All Muck and Magic*. Organic gardening series (r). (Oracle)
- 10.00** *Rude Health* (r).
- 10.30** *The Incredibly Strange Film Show*. Jonathan Ross meets Russ Meyer.
- 11.15** *Wired*. Prince performs live in Dortmund.
- 1.00pm** *Flame Charlie* (1938, b/w) starring Warner Oland and Veronica Hurst. Chilled about a woman who goes to a Scottish castle to find out why her fiancé has broken off their engagement and discovers a horrifying secret. William Cameron Menzies directs. Ends at 2.35.

Divine interpretation

TELEVISION CHOICE

Asked way back why he wanted to make *The Last Temptation of Christ*, the director Martin Scorsese replied: "To get to know Jesus better." The South Bank Special (ITV, 10.35pm), a late change to the schedules to coincide with the British premiere of the year's most controversial movie, is a chance to get to know Martin Scorsese better. It is ironic to be reminded that the man being denounced as a blasphemous and once studied for the priesthood, Scorsese talks of being impressed as a young man by the image of Christ's suffering and punishment, and describes how he drew on this theme of primal blood-letting in films like *Taxi Driver* and *Raging Bull*. He also gives a potted critical history of previous attempts to portray Christ on the screen, from De Mille's silent *King of Kings* ("over reverent and boring") to George Ste-



Film director Martin Scorsese talks to Melvyn Bragg about his most recent, and most controversial, work (ITV, 10.35pm)

vens' "consciously painterly" *The Greatest Story Ever Told* and the one he admires most, Pasolini's *The Gospel According to St Matthew*. Scorsese deals with the troubled production history of *The Last Temptation*, though it seems to have had as much to do with exceeding budgets as with the angry letters pouring in to Paramount's parent company, Gulf and Western. Melvyn Bragg's interview

seems to have been completed before the release of the film and subsequent protests. At any rate, Scorsese is not invited to respond directly to the criticism. What he does say is that he set out to make Christ "human and accessible". And that, probably, is the key to the controversy, for a Christ who is one of us is not many people's idea of Christ.

Peter Waymark

Radio 1

VHF Stereo and MW (medium wave) News on the half-hour from 6.30am until 6.50pm, then at 10.00 and 12.00. 6.50 *Adrian John* 7.00 *Simon Mayo* 9.30 *Simon Bates* 12.30 *Newsweek* (an Paterson) 12.45 *Radio 1* 1.00 *Steve Wright* 1.30 *Newsweek* 1.45 *Singled Out* 2.00 *Jeff Young's* *Dance Music Show* 10.00-12.00 *The Friday Rock Show*.

Radio 3

VHF Stereo (except 10.00pm-12.00 midnight) and MW (medium wave) 4.00 *Bill Rammell* 5.30 *Chris* 6.30 *Radio 3* 7.00 *John Peel* 8.00 *John Peel* 9.00 *John Peel* 10.00 *John Peel* 11.00 *John Peel* 12.00 *John Peel* 1.00 *John Peel* 2.00 *John Peel* 3.00 *John Peel* 4.00 *John Peel* 5.00 *John Peel* 6.00 *John Peel* 7.00 *John Peel* 8.00 *John Peel* 9.00 *John Peel* 10.00 *John Peel* 11.00 *John Peel* 12.00 *John Peel* 1.00 *John Peel* 2.00 *John Peel* 3.00 *John Peel* 4.00 *John Peel* 5.00 *John Peel* 6.00 *John Peel* 7.00 *John Peel* 8.00 *John Peel* 9.00 *John Peel* 10.00 *John Peel* 11.00 *John Peel* 12.00 *John Peel* 1.00 *John Peel* 2.00 *John Peel* 3.00 *John Peel* 4.00 *John Peel* 5.00 *John Peel* 6.00 *John Peel* 7.00 *John Peel* 8.00 *John Peel* 9.00 *John Peel* 10.00 *John Peel* 11.00 *John Peel* 12.00 *John Peel* 1.00 *John Peel* 2.00 *John Peel* 3.00 *John Peel* 4.00 *John Peel* 5.00 *John Peel* 6.00 *John Peel* 7.00 *John Peel* 8.00 *John Peel* 9.00 *John Peel* 10.00 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MARKETS	THE POUND
FT 30 Share 1402.4 (-17.1)	US dollar 1.6970 (-0.0090)
FT-SE 100 1739.8 (-16.3)	W German mark 3.1352 (-0.0148)
USM (Datastream) 158.65 (-0.68)	Trade-weighted 75.7 (-0.2)

Executive Editor
David Brewerton

Oil groups' results fail to impress

Britain's oldest and newest oil companies — respectively *Burmah* and *Enterprise* — yesterday produced better than expected profit figures, but failed to impress the City.

Burmah produced half year profits of £38.5 million (up 15 per cent on last year) after tax, and *Enterprise*, had post-tax profits of £43.4 million (up 78 per cent).

Temps, page 26
Market report, page 30

Lending high

The World Bank expects to lend between \$14.5 billion (£8.5 billion) and \$19.5 billion to developing countries in the year to June 1989. Last year's lending totalled \$14.8 billion.

LBC control

The Independent Broadcasting Authority said yesterday that it is to allow one company to take sole control of LBC, London's news and current affairs radio station. Crown Communications, which owns 52 per cent of LBC, can now make an offer for the remaining 42 per cent stake.

Scottish gold

Enx International, the Dublin exploration company, says more gold ore has been discovered on its Scottish property. Enx made an interim loss of \$341,000 for the six months ended June (loss of \$120,000).

STOCK MARKETS

New York	Dow Jones	2070.23 (+4.44)
Tokyo	Nikkei Average	27740.11 (+288.10)
Hong Kong	Hang Seng	2508.53 (-16.81)
Amsterdam	AEX	265.7 (-0.1)
Sydney	ASX	1555.1 (-4.9)
Frankfurt	Commerzbank	1492.2 (+4.5)
Brussels	General	4656.8 (+13.5)
Paris	CAC	352.1 (+2.8)
Zurich	SKA	465.6 (-1.5)
London	FT-30 Share	1402.4 (-17.1)
	FT-100	1739.8 (-16.3)
	FT Gold Mines	183.5 (+1.2)
	FT Fixed Interest	95.27 (-0.06)
	FT Govt Securities	86.62 (-0.17)
Recent Issues		Page 25
Closing prices		Page 25

MAIN PRICE CHANGES

RIBEX:	
Yorkshire Chem	236p (+10p)
Elys Wimbledon	735p (+10p)
Morland	620p (+11p)
Trade Indemnity	537p (+10p)
Glaxo	980p (+8p)
FALLS:	
WPP	547p (-17p)
Dagway	296p (-16p)
Taylor Woodrow	835p (-18p)
AC	412p (-17p)
Ultramar	212p (-31p)
Helical Bar	287p (-15p)
Bank Org	639p (-15p)
Body Shop	572p (-15p)
Whitbread 'B'	625p (-25p)
Tate & Lyle	603p (-14p)
A McAlpine	359p (-15p)
Slabe	359p (-15p)
Placal	282p (-12p)
Reutens	459p (-12p)
English China	442p (-12p)
Closing prices	
Bergins	1772p

INTEREST RATES

London: Bank Base	12%
3-month interbank	12% - 12 1/4%
3-month eligible bills	11% - 11 1/4%
buying rate	
US Prime Rate	10%
Federal Funds 8 1/4%	
3-month Treasury Bills	7.34 - 7.33%
30-year bonds	10 1/2% - 10 3/4%

CURRENCIES

London:	New York:
£: \$1.6970	£: \$1.6965
£: DM1.352	£: DM1.3480
£: SwF2.2155	£: SwF2.1557
£: FF10.6885	£: FF10.3000
£: Yen225.97	£: Yen133.82
£: Index75.7	£: Index99.1
ECU 0.659740	SDR 0.763336

GOLD

London Fixing:	
AM \$428.00 pm \$428.25	
Close \$428.00-428.50 (\$252.00-252.50)	
New York:	
Comex \$428.10-428.80	

NORTH SEA OIL

Brent (Oct) 1 pm \$13.40bbl (\$13.45)	
Danish latest trading price	

THE TIMES STOCK WATCH

0898 141 141

● Market news on Stock-watch yesterday included: *Ruberoid* (01086) fell 13p on fears of a Monopolies Commission referral of the bid from *Tarmac* (01714), down 8p; *Racal* (01245) was 11.5p cheaper on cellular telephone competition worries; oil tumbles included *Ultramar* (01090) down 32p; *Burmah* (01302) down 6p, and *Enterprise* (02546) down 6p.

● Calls charged 5p for 8 seconds peak, 12 seconds off peak inc. VAT.

Surge in sales fuels fears of base rate rise

By David Smith, Economics Correspondent

The boom in retail sales is continuing, the latest Confederation of British Industry evidence shows. The figures add to City worries about Britain's trade deficit and raise the threat of higher base rates.

Sales growth continued strongly last month and retailers are optimistic about the outlook for September, according to the latest CBI/FT Distributive Trades Survey, published yesterday.

But retailers have grown increasingly cautious about the outlook for next year, said Mr Nigel Whittaker, chairman of the CBI's distributive trades survey panel.

The implication of the survey — that interest rates have not yet had an impact on consumer spending but that there could be a hard landing for the economy next year — hit share prices.

The FT-SE 100 index was 27 points down at one stage but recovered to close 16.3 points down at 1,739.8, on a rise in share prices on Wall Street.

Money market interest rates edged higher and the pound fell back. It closed almost a cent down at £1.6970 and 1.5

pfennigs lower at DM3.1352. Fears are growing that the August trade data will show no significant improvement from the record £2.15 billion current account deficit recorded in July.

Warburg Securities predict that the figures, due on September 27, will show a deficit of £2 billion.

"The markets are worrying because they want to see evidence that the monetary

Comment.....27

medicine is working," said Mr Ian Harwood, economist at Warburg Securities. "So far that evidence is not coming through."

The distributive trades survey showed that 73 per cent of retailers expected September sales to be stronger than a year ago, with particular strength in household textiles, furniture and carpets.

This suggests the recent high level of activity in the housing market is leading on to more general consumer spending, as people fit out their recently purchased properties.

Mr Whittaker said: "The survey results show that increases in interest rates have, so far, had a limited effect in

dampening the growth of consumer demand. This is to be expected as rises in mortgage rates have barely begun to hit the consumer. It remains to be seen how much impact higher interest rates will have in the longer run, but their impact on consumer confidence could be quite substantial. Retailers are becoming increasingly cautious about the prospects for 1989."

The survey was also worrying in that, for both motor traders and wholesalers — but not for retailers — it showed a higher level of import penetration. Import penetration among wholesalers was at its highest since November 1985.

"If anything these figures suggest that things are getting worse," said Mr Stephen Hannah, economist at County NatWest WoodMac. "The momentum of growth in demand is very strong and overshadowing the impact of higher interest rates."

● The Central Statistical Office is to conduct an exercise in producing figures for the economy that will exclude the large residual errors and balancing items in the national accounts criticized by the all-party Treasury and Civil Service Committee earlier this year.

Tarmac agreed £141m bid rides to rescue of Ruberoid

By Cliff Feltham

Tarmac, the building company, swooped to the rescue of beleaguered *Ruberoid* yesterday with an agreed £141 million cash bid, £13 million more than the unwelcome offer from *Raine Industries*.

But Tarmac's role as white knight was condemned as a spoiling tactic by *Raine*. It claimed the new group would have a dominant position in the market for roofing felts and urged the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to investigate.

Tarmac is offering 280p a share but in the stock market concern over possible intervention left *Ruberoid* 10p lower on the day at 265p.

Tarmac and *Ruberoid* hope to avoid a reference by each selling one of their businesses. Tarmac will invite bids for its

British Hydroflex subsidiary which supplies felts used in pitched roofs and *Ruberoid* will find a buyer for its Vulcanite offshoot.

But *Raine*, which has built up an 18.6 per cent stake in *Ruberoid*, said it will not be increasing its bid.

Mr Peter Parkin, the chief executive said: "The vague

Comment.....27

and uncommitted assurances of Tarmac that it will sell its subsidiaries and one of *Ruberoid*'s companies in only one area of overlap represent a grossly inadequate level of reassurance, full of loopholes."

He claimed the bid by Tarmac was a spoiling tactic designed to prevent *Ruberoid*,

one of its main rivals, falling into the hands of a stronger company which would pose a much greater threat.

Mr Terry Mason, the Tarmac finance director, said it had started looking at *Ruberoid* long before *Raine* made its move. "This is not a last minute affair. It takes time to get a recommended offer. You don't just get the support of a target company in minutes or hours."

He said that after disposals of the combined group's share of the market in roofing felts would fall from more than 50 per cent to below 30 per cent. "We would prefer not to have to sell any parts of the group but you have to do what is necessary."

Tarmac owns just over 7 per cent of *Ruberoid*.

Pernod's media role criticized

By Michael Tate

Pernod-Ricard, the French drinks company embroiled in the ferocious takeover battle for Irish Distillers Group, was last night accused of arguing its legal case through the media by FII-Fyffes, IDG's biggest shareholder.

FII-Fyffes, the Dublin food group whose 20 per cent share stake is crucial to the fate of IDG, claimed in a statement that "attempts by Pernod to conduct its litigation through the media" were being made "with a view to prejudicing the proper trial."

Pernod has resorted to the Irish court in an effort to have FII-Fyffes' verbal commitment to accept its Ir400p bid enforced, even though Grand Metropolitan has a Ir£332 million (Ir£52p a share) rival offer on the table.

Ultramar springs surprise in \$440m US refinery deal

By David Young, Energy Correspondent

Ultramar, the independent oil company which only two weeks ago increased its North Sea holdings, has surprised the oil world by outbidding at least two of the world's leading oil companies to buy a modern refinery on the outskirts of Los Angeles.

The deal, which will cost Ultramar \$440 million (£259 million), is being praised by the City for its audacity — but severely criticized for its timing.

Ultramar, already highly geared, will partly pay for the Wilmington refinery at Long Beach with a six-for-25 rights issue at 200p a share to raise £130 million. The remainder will be financed by borrowings.

Mr Nick Clayton, oil analyst at SG Warburg, the

broker, said: "Wonderful deal, but lousy timing. With the world oil price collapsing and the stock market falling by the minute, it is hardly the time to ask the market for more money. Operationally and strategically the move is sound, but during a period of rising interest rates, is this the time to increase indebtedness?"

Many institutions had bought Ultramar stock on the expectation of a takeover bid from Sir Ron Brierley, the New Zealand investor who has a 13.7 per cent stake. He has effectively underwritten his entitlement, and his support for the share issue helped send the share price down 31p to 213p, with the company no longer seen as a target.

Ultramar's claim that the

Positive trend in underwriting result



Signs of higher quality: Murray Lawrence, chairman, announcing Lloyd's figures yesterday (Photograph: Nick Rogers)

Lloyd's profit drops to £211m

By Colin Narbrough

The Lloyd's insurance market saw its profits fall by nearly a quarter in 1985 to £211 million, after a record £279 million the previous year, reflecting a drop in investment income, exchange rate movements and a deterioration in back years.

Last year, Sir Peter Miller, then Lloyd's chairman, anticipated that 1985 would set a new profit on the strength of a continued rise in the insurance cycle.

His successor, Mr Murray Lawrence, who announced the lower-than-expected profit yesterday, drew comfort, however, from some improvements in the 1985 accounts.

The underwriting profit, for instance, was £52 million higher at £190 million on premium income of £3,056 million. "Therefore, although the overall result is down, there is a very real sense in which the profits are of a higher quality than in 1984."

Mr Lawrence pointed out that lower interest rates cut the return on gross investment by £81 million to £458 million, while syndicate expenses

rose by £45 million, more than offsetting the improvement in underwriting.

The *Global Report & Accounts* this year for the first time gives a figure for commissions charged by underwriting agents. Mr Lawrence

in the United States, mainly involving asbestos-related and pollution claims.

This has led to an increasing number of syndicates leaving years of account open. At the end of last year, there were about 76 syndicates with a

the overall loss growing to £268.4 million from £169.7 million, with asbestos and environmental impairment the main problems.

He said asbestos-linked claims had risen from an average 700 a month in 1985 to 2,000 last year, but thought the marked decline in the rate of increase in recent months was grounds for optimism.

The non-marine account, which posted an £84.2 million underwriting loss, would have been profitable had it excluded the losses of £85.4 million on the Outhwaite syndicates 371/661, he said.

Mr Christopher Rome, chairman of Lloyd's Underwriters' Association, said the 1985 marine market results remained acceptably good, with overall profits of £140 million and £52 million for the hull and cargo sectors respectively. Underwriting profits were £156 million and £57 million.

The motor insurance market made an overall loss of £36 million, after £25 million in 1984, but rate revisions are expected to improve the situation for the following years.

Underwriting losses were £353.7 million on net premiums of £415 million, with

total of 120 years open.

Mr Michael Williams, chairman of the Lloyd's Underwriters' Non-Marine Association, identified general liability as the biggest problem area again in 1985.

Underwriting losses were £353.7 million on net premiums of £415 million, with

rejected the idea that the £103 million paid for 1985, though £6 million higher, meant that profit left over for names would be abnormally low.

Lloyd's, which discloses its profits three years in arrears, saw its 1985 accounts badly hit by worsening claims on the so-called "long-tail" business

would be effective from 1990, but existing members would not have to resign if they could not put up the extra funds.

Lloyd's will also raise the amount of funds it holds to 30 per cent of members' gross premium income from 20 per cent at present. Gross premiums last year were about £4.3 billion.

Mr Lawrence said the rule

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Peanuts helps sell Abbeycrest range

1. *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 1997; 277: 1039-1043.

Reckitt & Colman leaps to £86m on higher margins

By Colin Campbell

Reckitt & Colman, the diversified household products, food and pharmaceuticals group with a host of famous brands under its corporate umbrella, is still on the look-out for acquisitions but will only buy when price levels are more sensible, Sir Michael Colman, the chairman, said yesterday.

The group, demonstrating the benefits of improved margins on lower sales, yesterday reported pre-tax profits of £86.1 million for the first half of 1988, against £74.6 million last time.

Sales were 7.8 per cent lower at £682.5 million.

An interim dividend of 9.15p a share will be paid, against 7.8p last time.

Reckitt & Colman had bought various businesses this year, spending £32.4 million, and has sold other interests, receiving £31.4 million.

Interim sales figures were also adversely affected by currency movements.

However, Sir Michael emphasized that the strategy of concentrating on core product categories in areas with the greatest potential for sustained real growth was working, and that margins across the board had risen.

The British market had been especially strong. Margins have improved from 12.8 per cent in the first half of 1986 to 14.2 per cent at the same time last year, reaching 16.6 per cent in the latest six months. In Australasia/Asia, margins are running at 18 per cent compared with 12.2 per cent in the first half a year ago.

Mr John St Lawrence, the chief executive, added that Reckitt & Colman was confident the business would continue to grow and provide a satisfactory result for the full 1988 financial year.

The shares, in line with a weak market, dipped by 7p to 875p on the results, although City analysts said they were generally impressed with the figures and many have now upgraded their year-end forecasts.

The group's studies on an anti-ulcer drug have reached the stage which justify the start of clinical trials with patients, although Sir Michael said the first read-outs would probably not be available before the year-end.

Tempus, page 26



Looking for buys: Sir Michael (Photograph: Marc Aspland)

Buyout at Vickers companies

By Rodney Hobson

Vickers has sold three companies in its office furniture division to a management team headed by Mr Bob Denton, the division's chief executive, for £35.5 million.

The businesses, three of four in Comforto Vickers, are Vickers Furniture of Dartford, Kent, Vickers Roneo, France, and CA Parsons, Ireland. They will be under a holding company VF International.

The buy is funded by Equity Ventures, the venture capital arm of Security Pacific Hoare Govett. It has the support of a syndicate of equity investors.

The deal needs French government approval.

Mr Denton and his team will pay £27 million, including £7.5 million to be paid in instalments up to 1996. They also take on existing borrowings of £8.5 million.

Morgan Grenfell slides by 53.4%

By Colin Campbell

Morgan Grenfell Group, the merchant bank, reports that pre-tax profits for the six months ended June 30 fell by 53.4 per cent to £21.9 million.

Mr John Craven, the group chief executive, admits the results are disappointing, but points out trading conditions remained difficult and that half-time results were materially better than in the second half of 1987.

In that half year, to end December, Morgan Grenfell reported pre-tax profits of £5.2 million, after excluding an exceptional £7.9 million profit on the sale of the group's interest in Target Group.

The bank is maintaining the 1988 interim dividend at 3.85p a share, declared out of fully diluted net earnings of £8.38p a share.

Morgan Grenfell shares yesterday dropped by 24p to 252p. When the bank came to the market in 1986, the striking price was fixed at 500p.

The group says that though progress was made in building market share in both equity and fixed income securities markets, these businesses have not traded profitably.

Losses from these activities are understood to have been in the £5 million region, and are in Morgan Grenfell's words at "containable levels."

Revenues from merger and acquisition activity was lower, though the contribution from treasury operations were ahead of expectations. International finance and banking activities were also strong.

After the sale of the group's New Zealand subsidiary, a reorganization of operations in Australia is being carried out.

Wembley profits up by £6.5m

By Cliff Feltham

Michael Jackson's sell-out concert at Wembley look like putting the icing on the cake for England's national stadium. Mr Brian Wolfson, chairman of the company, said yesterday that the number of people visiting the stadium is expected to top 7 million by the end of this year.

He was reporting a sharp jump in pre-tax profits from £1 million to £7.5 million for the first half of the year. The figures have been boosted by a £4.1 million exceptional profit gained through a variation of the terms of a lease held by a Wembley tenant.

Wembley is paying shareholders an interim dividend of 0.5p a share. The shares were unchanged at 115p.

£14.5m for Wilson Bowden

Wilson Bowden, the house-builder and property developer, has unveiled a 145 per cent increase to £14.5 million, in pre-tax profits for the six months to end-June. The group benefited from the mild winter and the boom in house prices. Turnover was up 71 per cent at £60.4 million.

David Wilson Homes, the housebuilding division, had 714 completions at an operating profit of £13.5 million, a leap of 166 per cent. Wilson Bowden Properties, the property development division, increased operating profits by 45 per cent to £1.6 million.

Earnings per share rose by 129 per cent to 14.2p. The interim dividend will be raised by 54 per cent to 2.0p.

Park Food purchases

Park Food Group, Britain's biggest supplier of Christmas hampers, has expanded with the £8.2 million acquisition of the Country Group, which operates as four separate companies in Britain with a salesforce of about 16,500.

Park Food is paying cash for Country and for Edward Butler Vintners, a wine and spirit distributor, for which it is paying £1.8 million in a separate deal.

Irish buy

R&H Hall, the grain importer, is paying £6.3 million (£5.3 million) in cash for Suttons, a coal importer, shipping agency and oil distribution company. Hall made half-year pre-tax profits of £1.58 million (£1.46 million). Earnings per share rose from £1.55p to £1.59p and the interim dividend is pegged at 1p.

Dolphin soars

Dolphin Packaging increased pre-tax profits by 34 per cent to £2.36 million in the year ended May 31. Turnover was up 47 per cent to £12.55 million. Earnings per share rose to 9.51p (5.50p). There is a final dividend of 2p, making a total of 3.2p (1.05p).

Acorn revives

Acorn Computer Group, has made pre-tax profits of £711,000 for the first half to end-June, against a £1.375 million loss last time. There is no dividend.

\$70m scheme

Ladbroke, through its US property offshoot London & Leeds Development Corporation, has started a \$70 million (£41.26 million) office and retail development in Ballston, Washington.

COMMENT

Need for speed by the OFT on Ruberoid

Ruberoid shareholders badly need a speedy decision from Sir Gordon Borrie on the late intervention by Tarmac in the battle for control of their company. If Sir Gordon and his colleagues at the Office of Fair Trading are unable to clear Tarmac within a week or so, Ruberoid shareholders may wind up empty-handed.

Ruberoid's beleaguered board, however, would not necessarily agree with this proposition. For it has clearly welcomed and backed the Tarmac offer as a means of escaping the clutches of Mr Nigel Rudd's Raine Industries, albeit at a higher price.

The need for speed hinges on two factors. First Raine's offer was underwritten before the latest outbreak of malaise in the markets. It is doubtful if Raine could refix the arrangements at anything close to the original price even if there were not a higher offer from Tarmac already on the table. The underwriting expires on September 23. Raine will reluctantly have to withdraw at that point if matters are not resolved.

The second reason is that Tarmac's offer looks deeply flawed and may well go to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, a process it may even then not survive. Tarmac and Ruberoid already have close on 70 per cent of the roofing felt market between them and have attempted to counter this by promising to sell two companies if their deal is allowed to proceed. The Raine

camp is naturally somewhat suspicious of this disposal. For it is, they maintain, possible to sell the two companies and still shift part of the existing manufacturing facilities over to roofing felt again.

Aside from this, there are possible market share difficulties in other areas of the combined Tarmac and Ruberoid operations. Both have sizeable roofing contractors and are in the business of waterproofing agents. At this stage, it is not possible to say that Tarmac will be given a clean bill of health.

There are strong suggestions in the market that Tarmac went to the Office of Fair Trading earlier this year and sounded out the chances of a bid for Ruberoid. The indications are that Sir Gordon's men sent Tarmac packing.

Not surprisingly Ruberoid is already invoking the prospect of 1992 as an argument for allowing its marriage with Tarmac to proceed. Cynics were suggesting last night that 1992 and the international dimension are frequently invoked as a way of diverting attention from some negative merger aspects in the domestic market. Whether or not this has validity in Ruberoid's case, its shareholders may prefer to consider a lower but but unconditional offer from Raine to a higher one from Tarmac which depends on Monopolies Commission approval. But the OFT must pronounce first, and preferably within 10 days.

Overheating in high street

The overheating school is still winning all the arguments about the economy, adding to the fears that — with other instruments ruled out — interest rates will have to rise further. Yesterday's CBI distributive trades data, which upset the markets, was typical of the story that is going to emerge in the coming weeks.

This is that the first round of mortgage rate increases, introduced on August 1, has not had much impact on the consumer. Spending continued strong in August, and has done so to date in September. Therefore, do not expect early relief from balance of payments disaster.

No one is yet suggesting that the August current account figures, due in about a fortnight, will be worse than July's £2.15 billion shocker, but Warburg Securities is getting close with its forecast of £2 billion.

The other side of this particular coin is the warning from the CBI's Distributive Trades Panel that things could turn very grisly next year. This, in fact, was the first evidence we have had of an effect on investment from higher interest rates. Retailers are always a little unsure looking into next year, but the

prospect presented by yesterday's survey was of a strong run-up to Christmas and very little thereafter.

Even if this is only half true, it underlines the dilemma facing the Treasury. There is a point at which interest rates have to stop rising and their effects assessed, and the Chancellor would prefer it if that point was now. But in the current nervous state of the markets the risk of an overshooting on interest rates, present since the lifting of base rates to 12 per cent, has increased as a result of the sort of data still coming through on demand.

The battle is going to be fought between the strength of real income growth and the by now high level of real interest rates. Yesterday's *Blue Book* from the Central Statistical Office, shows that last year's exceptionally low personal savings ratio — 5.4 per cent on average and lower in the second half of the year — has not been revised away.

The one thing that is keeping the whole thing together, for the moment, is the performance of sterling. The pound weakened yesterday, but not on a scale to warrant the attentions of the Bank of England.

Collins books 62% increase to £11.8m

By Our City Staff

William Collins, the publisher, has announced half-year pre-tax profits of £11.8 million, a 62 per cent increase on the £7.3 million for the corresponding half last year.

The profits for the 27 weeks to July 3 included, for the first time, a full half-year contribution from Harper & Row, the US publisher in which Collins acquired a 50 per cent stake in September.

Harper contributed £6.7 million to pre-tax profits, a performance Mr Ian Chapman, the Collins chairman and chief executive, described as "even better than we expected."

The profit figure was struck after an exceptional loss of

£1.2 million made up of stock write-offs and increased provisions, as a result of the reorganization of Collins' special interests division and its merger with the reference and educational division.

Turnover rose from £69.2 million to £77.7 million while earnings per share rose 10 per cent to 14.8p. The company is paying an interim dividend of 3.75p per cent (3.25p).

Operating profits at Collins itself — without Harper's contribution — fell from £6.9 million to £6.4 million. Mr Chapman said Collins' British publishing divisions "made a useful advance but were affected by higher than expected returns."

BAA and Ramada call off hotel deal

By Rosemary Unsworth, Retail Affairs Correspondent

BAA is faced with finding a new partner to run its three airport hotels under construction at Heathrow, Gatwick and Stansted as its deal with Ramada has fallen through.

In June, BAA and the US hotel chain said they were holding talks over a venture which would have given BAA the rights, outside the US, to the Renaissance and Ramada hotel names, to have been managed in a joint venture four-fifths owned by BAA.

But yesterday the airports group said: "Extensive negotiations have taken place but it has not proved possible to reach final agreement on key issues of control and structure."

Mr Jeremy Marshall, BAA's

chief executive, said: "We are disappointed. We remain enthusiastic to expand into hotel management but the arrangements must be right if we are to form a firm foundation for long-term growth."

The hotel development, with 250 rooms at Stansted, 475 at Gatwick and 400 at Heathrow, is part of BAA's diversification from its traditional airport business.

After the news, which saw the shares fall 2p to 256p, the American Pritzker family, which controls the Hyatt hotel chain, made a \$10 a share offer for Ramada, valuing it at \$400 million (£236 million). This compared with a \$7.50 price on Wall Street.

Monk's meeting the cost

Ronnie Monk, founder and former chairman of Falcon Resources, the oil exploration company which has had its shares suspended since October 1985, is facing an additional bill of £3,000 because of the postal strike. Monk, currently involved in a legal wrangle with Oliver Jessel — who moved in to inject cash and management skills into the beleaguered firm — as to precisely who is now a director, has forced an EGM to be held on October 6 in his bid to get the company at last re-listed. As a shareholder, together with friends, of 10 per cent of the company, he is entitled to do so but since the existing board has failed actually to requisition the meeting, he must now do so himself — at his own expense.

"The meeting on October 6 must be 90 days after the requisition, which means I have to post notice of the meeting to all 6,000 shareholders on Tuesday of next week," Monk explains. But, because of the postal strike, he has been forced instead to place adverts in the national and regional press. The Stock Exchange has apparently rewritten its rules, in the circumstances, so that anyone required to serve notice of such a meeting can do so by advertising in two national newspapers and one regional. "The whole exercise is costing me £8,000 which is £3,000 more than it would have been without the strike," says Monk.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Clearing postal hurdle

The internal mail delivery system used by the clearing banks really is coming into its own. So efficient is it that Midland Bank has leapt into action to help out Sport Aid 88, just in time for the simultaneous runs taking place at 186 venues all over Britain on Sunday — and others in 128 countries worldwide — by offering to distribute entry numbers through its high street branches in England and Wales.

The TSB has offered to do the same in Scotland and Northern Ireland. As a result, race numbers will now be available over the counter from one or other of the banks on payment of the £1 entry fee. "The postal strike threatened to bring us to a complete halt, in fact we wouldn't have been able to do it without this help from the banks," says organiser Nick Cater.

Booking broker

A firm of City insurance brokers is, hear, turning into a Keith Prowse-style ticket



"It'll come in handy if he's ever looking for a job..."

Changed direction

Can it be purely coincidence that British Aerospace and McDonnell Douglas, arch rivals in the international battle for aero-engine business, had conference rooms right next door to each other at the Sheraton Skyline Hotel last week? BAE dismissed it as just that and was amused when a number of its 90 or so top managers wandered into the wrong lecture hall. Their error was understandable since the BAE sign straddled both entrances and the Douglas folk had discreetly failed to erect any identifying sign of their own. The BAE meeting eventually got under way, with its chairman Prof Roland Smith and Sir Raymond Lygo sharing the stage for their key "Direction for Change" speeches. It was only afterwards that they discovered the Douglas theme: "Management Information Systems."

"We wonder if that meant they had their champagne glasses pressed up against the partition wall, listening to the Prof," jokes Anthony Cardew, chairman of Grandfield Rork Collins. PR adviser to BAE, and a conference delegate.

It is indeed an ill wind which blows no good. Fred Glidden, a post office worker in West Lothian, Scotland, — has, I'm told, just won £30,000 in gold Britannia coins in a contest run by Famous Grouse scotch whisky. Although he might have time on his hands right now, at least he won't be getting any begging letters...

Carol Leonard

RUBEROID plc SHAREHOLDERS

POSTAL DELAYS
SPECIAL ARRANGEMENTS

FOR YOUR URGENT ATTENTION

Raine Industries plc has made arrangements for acceptances of its Offer to be received at any branch of Barclays Bank.

Completed forms of acceptance, together with related share certificates, may be lodged by accepting Ruberoid shareholders in an envelope addressed to Barclays Bank PLC, New Issues Department (Fleetway House, 25 Farringdon Street, London EC4A 4HD) at any branch of Barclays Bank by 3.30p.m. on Monday, 12th September, 1988 for onward transmission at their own risk.

The directors of Raine Industries plc are the persons responsible for the information contained in this advertisement. To the best of their knowledge and belief (having taken all reasonable care to ensure that such is the case) the information herein is in accordance with the facts. Barclays de Zoete Wedd Limited has approved the advertisement for the purposes of Section 57 of the Financial Services Act and is a member of The Securities Association.

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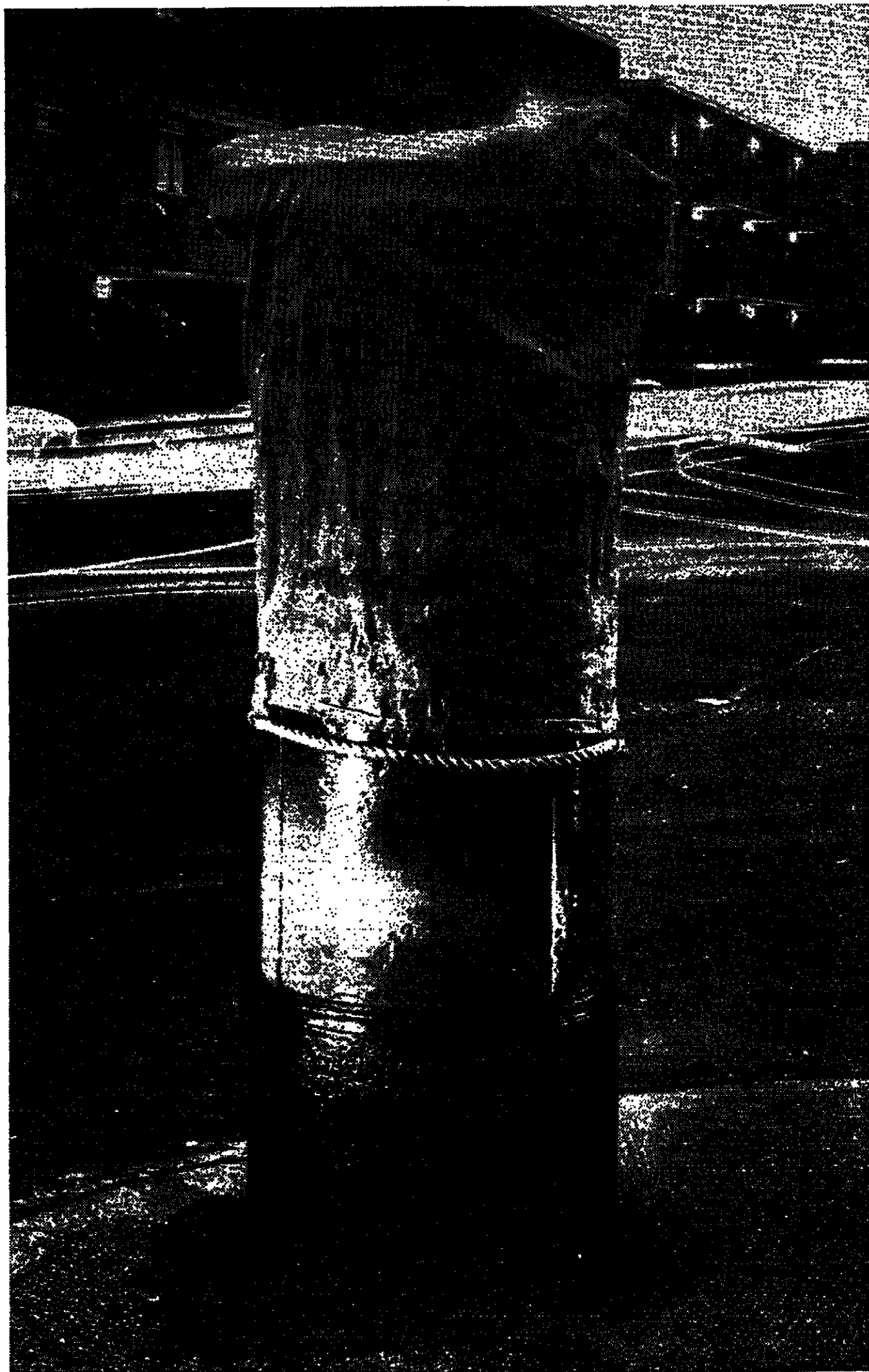
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We appreciate how difficult life must be for you at the moment.

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We'll also see about lending you some money, to tide you over. Naturally, we'll deal with each case on its merit.

But if there's any way we can possibly help, we will.


MIDLAND
The Listening Bank

Sutcliffe, in £4.7m

Sutcliffe, Speakman, the raising £4.7 million with a share to fund the purchase power and waste water ind Group. It is paying £3.37 m Brackett and another £500, Essex, base. Brackett made calendar 1987 on sales of believes its purchase has the trebling output in future. Funds left over from the extension of the carbon p Sutcliffe, Speakman's carbon The Sutcliffe, Speakman yesterday.

Simon talks are called off

Simon Engineering, which specializes in contract management and equipment supply, has called off talks with Amalgamated Metal Corporation, the international metal trading company, over the planned sale of TR International (Chemicals), a subsidiary of Simon Engineering. The companies announced that the negotiations had been concluded by mutual consent.

Stanco in 1

Stanco Exhibition Group has for an initial £4.16 million. Markets, which specializes specialist markets, mainly funded by the issue of 8.51 m family, of which 4.6 million w existing shareholders on a on There is a further deferred maximum. Evans has several councils and other official providing stalls and stands an Peter Friswell, the Stanco de placing another 2.8 million de offer to shareholders.

Pentos buys for £2.45m

Pentos, the retail group which owns the Athena and Ryman chains, is paying £2.45 million for AR Mowbray, a retailer of religious and other books, with shops in London, Birmingham and Cambridge. Mowbray has a small publishing business which Pentos intends to sell. It will also arrange a sale and leaseback of the London site. Management accounts for the year to May 31 show a pre-tax profit of £72,000.

CHI's £1m

CH Industrials, the industrial encompasses chemicals and a total of £1 million for three products. The largest is a distributor of carpet underlay fits in with CH Industrials' Grippeprods, in the company's furnishings division. The pre-tax profit of £72,000.

Its specialist paints and chemicals of £200,000 for the Thomas from Coal Products. The div rubberized hair.

MOR

GROU

Profit before taxation

Taxation

Attributable profit

Earnings per share

Extracts from the Inter

■ Retained a leading position

■ U.K. treasury operations in money markets and

■ International financial subsidiaries

■ Substantial progress in markets although not a sustainable level

■ Investment funds for recovery in stock markets

■ Achievement of a bright future

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BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Sutcliffe, Speakman in £4.7m cash call

Sutcliffe, Speakman, the activated carbon manufacturer, is raising £4.7 million with a one-for-three rights issue at £1 a share to fund the purchase of a maker of screens used in the power and waste water industries from the Hawker Siddeley Group. It is paying £3.37 million in cash for Hawker Siddeley Brackett and another £500,000 for land next to its Colchester, Essex, base. Brackett made pre-tax profits of £402,000 in calendar 1987 on sales of about £5 million, but Sutcliffe believes its purchase has the spare capacity to come close to trebling output in future.

Funds left over from the rights issue will go towards the extension of the carbon plant now under construction at Sutcliffe, Speakman's carbon factory at Leigh in Lancashire. The Sutcliffe, Speakman share price fell by 4p to 111p yesterday.

Simon talks are called off

Simon Engineering, which specializes in contract management and equipment supply, has called off talks with Amalgamated Metal Corporation, the international metal trading company, over the planned sale of TR International (Chemicals), a subsidiary of Simon Engineering. The companies announced that the negotiations had been concluded by mutual consent.

US generator plans listing

California Energy, a company which provides electric power to users in California from nine geothermal power stations, is coming to the London Stock Exchange on September 20. The company, which aims to use its expertise in the privatized British power industry, is capitalized at \$150 million (£88.39 million). More than 40 per cent of its shares are held by British institutions.

Stanco in £4m deal

Stanco Exhibition Group has diversified with the purchase, for an initial £4.16 million, of Evans Town and Country Markets, which specializes in staging street, Sunday and specialist markets, mainly in the South-east. The deal is funded by the issue of 8.31 million new shares to the Evans family, of which 4.6 million will be placed and offered back to existing shareholders on a one-for-eight basis at 45p.

There is a further deferred consideration of £1.74 million maximum. Evans has several long-term contracts with local councils and other official bodies, organizing markets, providing stalls and stands and vetting stallholders, said Mr Peter Frieswell, the Stanco development director. Stanco is placing another 2.8 million new shares, not part of the open offer to shareholders.

Pentos buys for £2.45m

Pentos, the retail group which owns the Athena and Ryman chains, is paying £2.45 million for AR Mowbray, a retailer of religious and other books, with shops in London, Birmingham and Cambridge. Mowbray has a small publishing business which Pentos intends to sell. It will also arrange a sale and leaseback of the London site. Management accounts for the year to May 31 show a pre-tax profit of £72,000.

£2.79m for paper group

British Syphon, the paper maker and packaging group, has lifted pre-tax profits from £2.2 million to £2.79 million in the first six months of 1988. The interim dividend rises from 1.84p a share to 2.024p. Sales were £72.2 million against £69.6 million. Earnings per share were 6.8p (5.7p). The board expects the result for the full year to reflect further improvement and remains optimistic.

CHI's £1m purchases

CH Industrials, the industrial holding company which encompasses chemicals and specialist engineering, has paid a total of £1 million for three small manufacturers of specialist products. The largest is Salesmark (UK), a wholesale distributor of carpet underlay and fitting accessories, which fits in with CH Industrials' most recent large purchase, Gripperrods, in the company's household products and furnishings division. The consideration is approximately £500,000.

Its specialist paints and chemicals side is paying just short of £200,000 for the Thomas Ness remedial products range from Coal Products. The third acquisition is a maker of rubberized hair.

Southgate to take over as chairman at Thorn EMI

By John Bell, City Editor
Mr Colin Southgate, chief executive of Thorn EMI, is to take over as chairman in February next year after the retirement of Sir Graham Wilkins.

Sir Graham, who took over as chairman in 1985, is 65 in January. Mr Southgate will retain the post of chief executive.

Sir Graham told the Thorn EMI annual meeting that when he joined the group, he expected it would take two to three years to achieve a recovery and see the company back on the path for continuing success. "I hope you will agree that this has been achieved by the progress we have made in the intervening time," he said. Reviewing the operations, he said that the music business continued to grow and had



New chairman Colin Southgate (left) follows Sir Graham Wilkins.



The first half of the financial year had seen significant progress in the software business.

The security operations had been restructured, and the acquisition of Kidde Automated Systems gave Thorn an important foothold in the large US security market, he said.

The group's formerly troubled computer chip manufacturer, Immos, was today a much stronger company, said Sir Graham.

"It is now trading profitably with sales substantially ahead of the same period last year and order intake at a record level."

Thorn still intended to find partners to participate in the development of the business.

"Our financial position remains strong. We have started the year well," added Sir Graham.

Tyne Tees TV up 10.3% to £2.8m

By Wolfgang Münch

Tyne Tees Television Holdings, which recently became the first independent television company to conclude local pay agreements, has announced a 10.3 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £2.81 million for the six months to June 30. Revenues advanced 4.7 per cent to £28.19 million.

Earnings per share rose 10 per cent to 16.83p. The interim dividend is 5p a share (3.75p).

The increase in profits came despite an exceptional charge of £684,000 to cover a voluntary early retirement and leaving scheme, taken up by 50 employees. The company has also made a provision of £800,000 against its investment in Super Channel.

Tyne Tees became the first ITV company to pull out of national union deals when it agreed to a comprehensive local pay deal with the EETPU and the ACTT.

Friendly Hotels at £1m

Friendly Hotels, owner of London's Connaught Rooms, doubled its pre-tax profits to £1.13 million (£544,000) in a short 1988 first half of only 24 weeks.

The interim dividend rises from 0.7p a share to 1.1p.

Basic earnings per share are 7.37p (2.56p), reducing to 6.19p (3.34p) on full dilution. Mr Henry Edwards, the chairman, says he expects further news on the proposed £73 million acquisition of Baron Hotels in the near future.

SPECIAL NOTICE

AA INSURANCE POLICYHOLDERS

The postal dispute has placed both you and us in a difficult situation. We are endeavouring to continue to provide a service to you and the following information is intended to help you until the postal dispute is resolved.

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We have a nationwide chain of 170 branches, see Yellow Pages for your nearest branch. If your insurance policy is due for renewal in the next two weeks, please go to your nearest branch where arrangements will be made to renew your policy. You will need to bring your payment and Renewal Notice or current Certificate of Insurance with you. Most branches will be extending their opening hours to provide assistance out of normal office hours.

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MORGAN GRENFELL

GROUP INTERIM RESULTS 1988

	6 months to 30.6.88 (unaudited) £000's	6 months to 30.6.87 (unaudited) £000's	12 months to 31.12.87 £000's
Profit before taxation	21,919	47,048	60,087*
Taxation	(7,840)	(15,081)	(21,536)
Attributable profit	12,789	30,771	40,176
Earnings per share	8.56p	20.3p	23.8p

*After crediting £26,645,000 in respect of the sale of the Group's interest in Target Group PLC and after providing £10,000,000 for future information technology infrastructure development costs and £8,667,000 in respect of sovereign debt.

Extracts from the Interim Report

- Retained a leading position in domestic mergers and acquisitions
- U.K. treasury operations ahead of expectations with strong performance in the foreign exchange, money markets and off balance sheet financing departments
- International finance and banking activities performed strongly as did the Channel Islands banking subsidiaries
- Substantial progress made in building market share in both equity and fixed income securities markets although these businesses have not traded profitably. Losses have, however, been at containable levels
- Investment funds under management increased during the period both as a result of the general recovery in stock market values since last October and the acquisition of new clients
- Achievement of a reduction in the Group's cost base whilst ensuring adequate investment for the future

MORGAN GRENFELL GROUP PLC

23 Great Winchester Street, London EC2P 2AX

Telephone 01-588 4545 Telex 8953511 Fax 01-588 5598

Offices in Edinburgh, Frankfurt am Main, Geneva, Grand Cayman, Hong Kong, Jersey, Madrid, Milan, Moscow, New York, Paris, Singapore, Sydney, Tokyo

To obtain a copy of the Group's Interim Report for 1988 please write to or telephone the Group Secretary at the above address in London.

GEORGE WIMPEY PLC

Statement for the half year to 30 June 1988 (Unaudited)

	1988 Half year to 30 June £ million	1987 Half year to 30 June £ million	Year to 31 December £ million
TURNOVER - including share of associates	699.9	654.1	1,482.0
OPERATING PROFIT	48.8	33.2	109.6
Share of profits less losses of associates	1.8	2.2	4.8
PROFIT BEFORE INTEREST AND TAXATION	50.6	35.4	114.4
Interest - net payable	(9.9)	(10.0)	(18.6)
PROFIT BEFORE TAXATION	40.7	25.4	95.8
Taxation	(13.4)	(6.4)	(24.1)
PROFIT ON ORDINARY ACTIVITIES AFTER TAXATION	27.3	19.0	71.7
Attributable minority profits	(0.4)	(0.3)	(0.8)
PROFIT AFTER TAXATION AND MINORITIES	26.9	18.7	70.9
Extraordinary items	-	-	(2.8)
PROFIT ATTRIBUTABLE TO ORDINARY SHAREHOLDERS	26.9	18.7	68.1
EARNINGS PER SHARE	9.44p	6.63p	25.15p

The Directors have declared an Interim Dividend of 3.00p per share (1987: 2.00p) totalling £8,600,000 (£5,640,000) which will be paid on 24 October 1988 to ordinary shareholders on the register at the close of business on 29 September 1988.

The Chairman, Sir Clifford Chetwood, comments:

"Profits before tax for the half year ended 30 June 1988 were £40.7m, an increase of 60% on the corresponding period in 1987. The tax charge has risen from 25% to 33%.

The increase in profit reflects better performances in our Homebuilding activities, with an encouraging improvement in the USA, and the Minerals Group. Profits on overseas Contracting operations were lower than in 1987.

Wimpey Homes achieved 4,309 legal completions in the UK, compared with 4,461 in the first half of 1987. The higher profitability has arisen from successfully achieving a better mix of sales and improved efficiency, as well as the buoyant demand and our ability to market a wide range of products which satisfy the aspirations of home buyers. During the first half of the year net sales were above target and some 5% higher than during the first half of 1987. We are particularly encouraged by the spread of demand, and consequent rise in prices, away from the South into the Midlands, the North and Scotland where we have land holdings in good locations.

We are making excellent progress with the expansion of our housebuilding activities in the USA, apart from Texas, and the additional investment made last year in California, Florida and Georgia has proved successful. We now have a total of 14 selling outlets in these States compared to six a year ago. Our other overseas housing operations are benefiting from favourable market conditions.

With a strong demand for its products, the Minerals Group continues to expand its asphalt, quarrying, waste and open cast coal businesses, as well as improving the profitability of its existing operations.

Wimpey Property has made good progress with seven office and retail projects under development. Of particular note is the pre-letting of the 437,000 square foot office development at Little Britain in the City of London which is, we believe, the largest pre-letting yet achieved in the City. Little Britain is due for completion in 1990.

The 250,000 square feet retail development at Clayton Square, Liverpool, will be completed and opened in November this year. There were no property sales during the half year and the portfolio now consists of 23 major properties and development sites.

UK Contracting activities have a record order book of £1 billion, but margins, although showing some improvement, are still tight. Profits from overseas contracting have fallen following completion of the major contracts in the Falklands and the Oman. However, negotiations for two major overseas projects elsewhere are being pursued.

The Group remains in a strong financial position and, despite the additional investments made in the past year, particularly on land for private housing both in the UK and overseas, borrowings are at a similar level to this time in 1987. The rise in UK interest rates from 7½% to 11% between June and August this year did not cause any slackening in the demand for Wimpey Homes. It is too early to form a view on the effect of the increase to 12% announced on 25 August. The indications are that the demand remains firm but the rate of price increase has steadied, particularly in the southern half of the UK.

All divisions have met their sales targets for the year to date and I am confident of a satisfactory performance in the second six months of the year. Furthermore, we are continuing to pursue a number of new business opportunities to expand our four core activities.

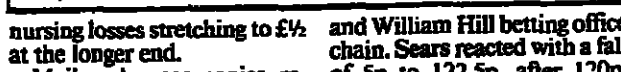
The Board has decided to increase the interim dividend from 2p to 3p per share but, as I said last year, this should not be taken as indicating the total dividend for the full year."

This statement will be sent to all shareholders on the register after the postal dispute is over. It is available to the public at the Company's Registered Office, 27 Hammersmith Grove, London W6 7EN.

WIMPEY
Breaking new ground

Investors run for cover on CBI warning

The weaker pound left gifts



Yesterday's fall in the Sears price was in sharp contrast to events a few months ago when the price touched 145p on hopes of a bid.

further.
Michael Clark and
Geoffrey Foster

increased from 0.5p to 0.6p. Avdel shares initially climbed 1p to 67p after the results.

"Sentiment is getting better because the fear of inflation and higher interest rates is disappearing," said Mr. Tanobu Sugai, a broker.

9th September, 1983

9th September 1988

100 Bank PLC, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS. A member of ING

[illegible]

TS

20% leap
to £6m
or Ardel

150

RK

WORLD MARKETS: NEW YORK

Dow edges lower in early trading

(Reuters) — Wall Street shares were moderately lower in early trading yesterday.

Brokers said some of the early selling related to the Securities and Exchange Commission's charges against Drexel Burnham Lambert, the investment firm, but it might not be a significant depressant. They also saw hesitation before the producer price report due out today.

The Dow Jones industrial average was down 4.62 points to 2,061.17 at one stage when the transport indicator fell

3.89 to 863.05 and the utilities average slipped 0.35 to 179.65.

Advancing issues led declining shares by about two to one.

The broader New York Stock Exchange composite index edged 0.43 points lower to 149.95.

● **Frankfurt** — The Commerzbank index closed 4.5 points higher at 1,492.2 although most West German shares closed largely lower after a firm start as investors retreated to the sidelines over lack of direction.

TOKYO

Nikkei rises in brisk trade on stronger yen

(Reuters) — Share prices climbed throughout yesterday ending just near the day's high in brisk trade as investors were encouraged by a stronger yen, brokers said.

"Sentiment is getting better because the fear of inflation and higher interest rates is disappearing," said Mr Toranobu Sugai, a broker at Shearson Lehman Hutton Asia.

The Nikkei index rose 236.10 points, or 0.86 per cent, to close at 27,740.11. It gained 183.50 points on

Wednesday. Communications, credit, pharmaceutical, and some manufacturing shares fell.

● **Hong Kong** — The Hang Seng index fell 16.61 points to close at 2,508.53 in what brokers called sluggish trading on account of investors staying on the sidelines over uncertain share price trends.

● **Sydney** — The All-Ordinaries index finished down 4.7 points at 1,555.1 on light volume as investors kept away from all but a few selected stocks.

Cookson interims at record £86 million despite dollar blow

By Martin Waller

Cookson Group, the specialist metals and chemicals manufacturer, boosted pre-tax profits for the first half to end-June to a record £86 million, from £68.8 million last time, despite £5 million in currency costs.

The figures reflected the group's policy of diversifying from its Tiioxide money-spinner into engineering materials, with just 44 per cent of operating profits contributed by the joint venture with Imperial Chemical Industries against 53 per cent in the first half of 1987.

The company is waiting until the last minute to decide whether to raise its offer for Wolstenholme Rink, the metal powders business, which has so far attracted minimal acceptances. No announcement was made with yesterday's figures, and Cookson has effectively until the end of today to make up its mind.

Profits from the fast-growing American side increased despite a £3 million reduction due to the weaker dollar, including a £6 million contribution from acquisitions at the operating level.

Tioxide, which itself announced pre-tax profits up from £79 million to £83



Henderson: diversifying million in the six months to end-June, lost £4 million to currency movements and another £2 million to the effects of a strike at its Spanish factory. Cookson owns 50 per cent of the company.

Turnover in the first half climbed from £582 million to £738 million. Cookson is paying a 2.5p dividend, up from 2p last time.

Mr Michael Henderson, the chief executive, said all divisions contributed to the record interim profits.

Interest charges rose to £6.9 million from £4.7 million, and at the end of the first half gearing stood at about 30 per cent.

This was unlikely to fall much, as the group was set to

expand by acquisitions within its existing operations, said Mr Henderson.

He refused to comment on the company's 6.3 per cent stake in Johnson Matthey, the precious metals business, bought for £32 million this summer, and would not say if talks had taken place between the two companies.

Mr David Ingles, an analyst with Morgan Grenfell Securities, the stockbroker, said a lower-than-expected contribution from Tiioxide had been balanced by a good performance from the wholly-owned businesses.

The market still has two worries about the group. One is a possible slowing in the profits growth from Tiioxide, as the increased capacity now being built at the group's existing plants hit production.

The second was the Johnson Matthey stake and the chances of a full bid.

At yesterday's price of 243p, down 9p, the shares were selling at a 25 per cent discount to the industrial sector on a 7.8 times rating. This situation is set to continue until the uncertainties are cleared up, he says.

Mr Ingles is forecasting pre-tax profits for the whole year of £177 million.

POSTAL DISPUTE BANK OF ENGLAND WARRANTS

Interest and Redemption Monies

Holders of stock on the Bank's register are advised that, in consequence of the postal dispute, warrants are not at present being despatched.

The following emergency measures will apply:-

1 Warrants may be collected by payees from the Bank of England, Registrar's Department, New Change, London, EC4M 9AA. Alternatively, payees may arrange for third parties to collect warrants from the above address against production of the payee's written authority; the latter should specify the stock title, the capital amount of the holding and the full names of the registered holder(s), plus the stock account reference number if known.

2 Upon request, arrangements may be made for warrants to be available for collection from the Bank of England's Branches at Birmingham, Bristol, Leeds, Manchester and Newcastle, and at the Bank's Agencies in Glasgow, Liverpool and Winchester.

All telephone enquiries regarding the above announcement should be directed to the Bank of England, Registrar's Department, on

01-601 4444

WALL STREET

Sep 7	Sep 8	Sep 7	Sep 8	Sep 7	Sep 8
AMR Cp	45%	44%	Fedders	9%	9%
ASA	38	37%	Fast Pann C	12%	12%
Astra Life	49%	48%	FT Wines	38%	38%
Allied Signal	33%	33%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Alto Crm	51%	51%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Alcoa	51%	51%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Ames Inc	21%	21%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
AMR Hess	28%	27%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Am Brands	46%	46%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Am Cymnd	46%	46%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Am Ele Pwr	27%	27%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Ames	28%	28%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Am Family	12%	12%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Am Home	12%	12%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Am Int Grp	64%	63%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Am Telph	25%	25%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Amoco Cp	73%	74%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Anheuser B	30%	30%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Arch Den	16%	16%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Arco Steel	91%	91%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Asarco Inc	23%	23%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Asphalt Oil	35%	35%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
At Richd	80%	81%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Avon Prod	23%	23%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Bk Boston	27%	27%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Bank NY	34%	35%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Bankamer	14%	14%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Bears Tst NY	38%	38%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Baxter	20%	20%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Beth Steel	21%	21%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Borg	59%	59%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Boise Cacc	44%	43%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Borden	54	53%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Brill Meyr	43%	43%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
BP	48%	50%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Brunswick	19%	19%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Burl Rth	68%	67%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
CBS	163%	163%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
CMS Engr	21%	21%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
CPC Int	47%	48	Gen Cp	21%	21%
CSX Cp	25%	25%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Camp Soup	27%	27%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Can Pacifi	18%	18%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Caterpillar	56%	55%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Centrl SW	31%	31%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Champion	33%	33	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Chem Bank	33%	33	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Chevron	44%	44%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Chrysler	23%	23%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Citibank	24%	24%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Clark En	28%	28%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Coca Cola	41%	41%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Colgate	44%	43%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Columb Gas	34	34%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Cmb'm Eng	32%	32%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Cornwlt Ed	29%	30	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Cone Edle	43%	43%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Consol Ng	38%	38%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Cont Data	22%	22%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Corning Gl	59	59	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Oreans	29	29%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Caritas W	48%	48%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Data Genl	18%	18%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Deere Co	43%	43%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Datta Air	47%	47%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Detroit Ed	15%	15%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Digital Eq	92%	92%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Disney	63%	63%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Dow Chem	86%	86%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Dresser Ind	28%	28%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Dupont	61%	61%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Duke Pwr	44%	44%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
East Kodak	43%	43%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Eaton Cp	75%	75%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Emerson El	29	29	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Emery Air	4%	4%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Exxon	45%	45%	Gen Cp	21%	21%
Farah Inc	10%	10	Gen Cp	21%	21%

IMPORTANT NOTICE TO TSB INSURANCE POLICYHOLDERS

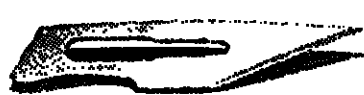
In view of the current postal dispute:

- * If you currently pay your premium by direct debit, then your payments and cover will be unaffected.
- * If you pay by cheque, just take the payment and renewal notice into your local TSB Bank branch and they will send the payment to us.
- * If you have an urgent claim, take the completed claim form into your local TSB Bank branch and they will send it to us.
- * In emergency, please call us on (0264) 56789, making sure that you have your policy documents to hand.
- * If you require a Green Card for foreign motor travel, please contact your local Royal Insurance office who will issue one to you.



TSB Trust Company, Keene House, Andover, Hants, SP10 1RE.

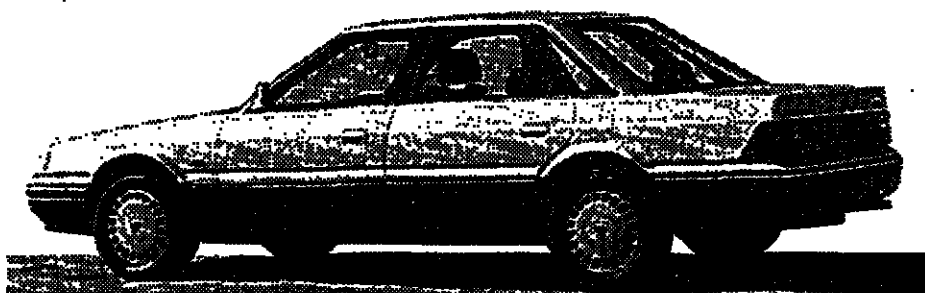
5 gram.



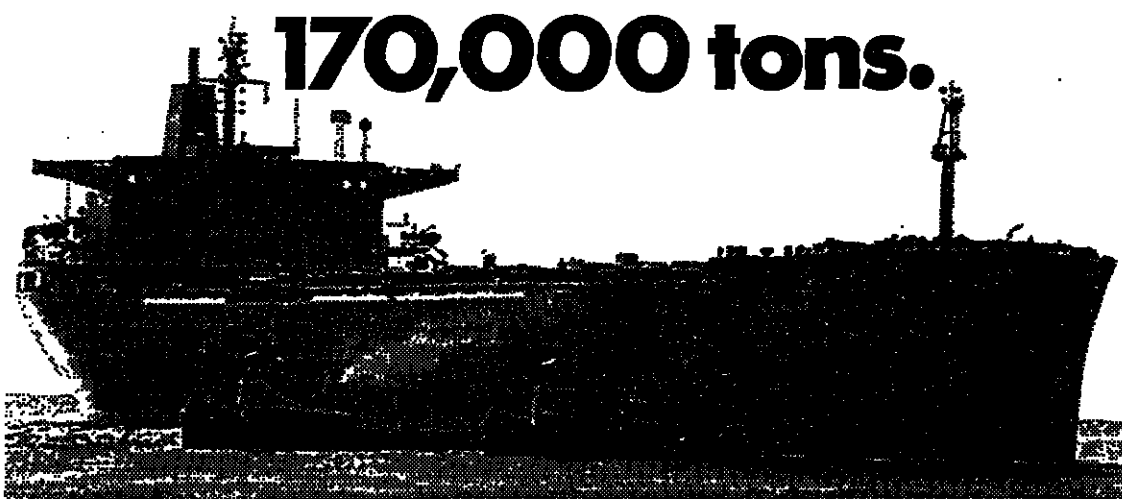
2 ounces.



28.9 hundredweight.



170,000 tons.



410,000,000 pounds.

You've seen British steel, the material, in all shapes and sizes. Today, you can see British Steel, the company, in good shape. Last year net profits were £410 million, the best result to date. Liquid steel production rose to 14.7 million tonnes, the highest for 9 years. Productivity continued to improve, averaging 5 man hours per liquid tonne compared with 6.2 in the previous year. And our UK and export deliveries were up by over 1 million tonnes and around 700,000 tonnes respectively. Good figures to weigh in with, we think you'll agree.



No.	Company	Cons.
1	Red Bull Sport Ltd.	£100,000
2	Topham	£100,000
3	Power Corp.	£100,000
4	Wilson Bowler	£100,000
5	Borland	£100,000
6	Hall Eng.	£100,000
7	Connells	£100,000
8	Shield Co.	£100,000
9	Wood White	£100,000
10	Trent	£100,000
11	Aceme Int.	£100,000
12	Johnson	£100,000
13	T. S. & S. Stern	£100,000
14	Arthington Sea	£100,000
15	Howden	£100,000
16	Sock Shop	£100,000
17	Leigh	£100,000
18	Norman Frazer	£100,000
19	Westons	£100,000
20	Holmes Paperwork	£100,000
21	Benson Co.	£100,000
22	McLeod Russell	£100,000
23	Bosse Masonry	£100,000
24	Randall Eng.	£100,000
25	Cassins	£100,000
26	Whelan	£100,000
27	Park Fairs	£100,000
28	Scott & Robinson	£100,000
29	Jardine Mair	£100,000
30	Rummenan-Walker	£100,000
31	Baines & Hawker	£100,000
32	Wagon Ind.	£100,000
33	Madden (Hedges)	£100,000
34	Frederic Hedges	£100,000
35	Tate	£100,000
36	MBS	£100,000
37	Bolton	£100,000
38	ATM	£100,000
39	Uniper Thermostats	£100,000
40	Dunhill	£100,000
41	Maddimont	£100,000
42	KLF	£100,000
43	Brown Steels	£100,000
44	Reliance Ind.	£100,000
45	3 Times Newspapers Ltd.	£100,000

Please take into account
mirus signs

Wally Davidson

Please make a note of the
for the weekly at 10.00
tomorrow's newsprint

BRITISH FUND

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

[illegible]

COINS:
Britannia: \$440.00-445.00

DATED		EX-LINKED	
41	Consolidated	8	Trans. C.
42	Consolidated	9	Trans. C.
43	Consolidated	10	Trans. C.
44	Consolidated	11	Trans. C.
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47	Consolidated	14	Trans. C.
48	Consolidated	15	Trans. C.
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100	Consolidated	67	Trans. C.

BANKS, DISCOUNT	
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Portfolio PLUS NEW Accumulator

From your Portfolio gold card check your eight share price movements on this page only. Add them up to give you your overall total and check this against the daily or accumulator dividend figures. If it matches or beats this figure you have won outright or a share of the daily or accumulator prize money stated. If you win, follow the claim procedure on the back of your card. Always have your card available when claiming. Game rules appear on the back of your card.

No.	Company	Group	Gain or Loss
1	Ryl BK Scot (aa)	Banks/Discount	
2	Trophick	Shipping	
3	Power Corp	Property	
4	Wilson Bowden	Building/Roads	
5	Borland	Electronics	
6	Hall Eng	Industrials E-K	
7	Concels	Property	
8	Shield Op	Property	
9	Ward White	Draperies/Stores	
10	Trent	Building/Roads	
11	Jerome (S)	Textiles	
12	Nash Ind	Industrials L-R	
13	T & S Stores	Draperies/Stores	
14	Hamilton Secs	Property	
15	Hendon	Industrials E-K	
16	Sock Shop	Draperies/Stores	
17	Leigh	Chemicals/Plastics	
18	Pennant Prop	Property	
19	Westman	Industrials S-Z	
20	Holmes Protection	Industrials E-K	
21	Beacon Op	Electronics	
22	McLeod Russel	Industrials L-R	
23	Boase Massimo	Paper/Print/Adv	
24	Ricardo Eng	Industrials L-R	
25	Cussons	Property	
26	Wheway	Industrials S-Z	
27	Park Foods	Food	
28	Scott & Robertson	Industrials S-Z	
29	Jardine Math	Industrials E-K	
30	Runciman (Walter)	Shipping	
31	Bossey & Hawkes	Leisure	
32	Wagon Ind	Industrials S-Z	
33	Macley (High)	Textiles	
34	Freemantle	Hotel/Catering	
35	Taco	Industrials S-Z	
36	MRS	Electronics	
37	Bolton	Textiles	
38	AIM	Industrials A-D	
39	Vesper Thornycroft	Industrials S-Z	
40	Dunhill	Draperies/Stores	
41	Medminster	Leisure	
42	KLP	Paper/Print/Adv	
43	Brown Shipley	Banks/Discount	
44	Rolls-Royce (aa)	Motors/Aircraft	

Please take into account any minus signs

Weekly Dividend						
Please make a note of your daily totals for the weekly dividend of £8,000 in tomorrow's newspaper.						
MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT	TOTAL

BRITISH FUNDS						
1988	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

SHORTS (Under Five Years)						
1988	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

FIVE TO FIFTEEN YEARS						
1988	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

OVER FIFTEEN YEARS						
1988	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

UNDATED						
1988	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

INDEX-LINKED						
1988	High	Low	Stock	Price	Change	%
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

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STOCK EXCHANGE PRICES

Sharp falls

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began September 5, Dealings end September 16, Contango day September 19, Settlement day September 26.
 \$Forward bargains are permitted on two previous business days.
 Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Where one price is quoted, it is a middle price. Changes, yields and price earnings ratios are based on middle prices. (aa) denotes Alpha Stocks.
 (VOLUMES PAGE 26)

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CINEMAS, TV stocks have now been incorporated under Leisure						
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OVERSEAS TRADERS						
1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
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PAPER, PRINT, ADVERTISING						
1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

PROPERTY						
1988	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	%

100

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YOUR OWN BUSINESS

Edited by
David Young

Funny face singing for a contract

By Hazel Shaw

When Patrick Michallat-Cox, managing director of Bath Natural Spring Products, decided to export his range of cosmetics into Japan, he had no idea what he was letting himself in for. Now, after 15 months of frustrating negotiation he is sending off his first order.

He says: "As a small businessman trying to break into the market it has cost me a great deal of time and money. The Japanese insisted that I wrote letters in Japanese, so I had to pay a translator between £20 and £30 a letter. I made countless telephone calls and used Fax but there were times when I felt that they were deliberately blocking my efforts because they were slow to reply and appeared to be nit-picking over silly little details."

"But now I think it is just the way they are. You cannot hurry them up."

"When they were finally convinced that everything was in order, things moved very quickly indeed, and they wanted delivery as soon as possible. I would advise anyone going into the market to get better information than I did. You cannot get it from books, only from those who have first-hand experience."

An organization offering just such experience and advice is the Japan Business Consultancy, which was recently launched in Bath with the specific aim of helping people like Mr Michallat-Cox, as well as representatives from the larger West Country firms, such as Rolls-Royce and Hewlett Packard.

It follows in the footsteps of the Language Consultants for In-

dustry in Bath and Bristol. Both ventures are funded initially by the Department of Education and Science and the Training Commission, and are part of a national network of similar expertise around the country, aimed at encouraging trade overseas.

At the launch several leading industrialists, speaking about trade with Japan, emphasized the importance of learning to communicate. It was vital to realize that the endless meetings and bouts of drinking in which you are expected to indulge until the early hours were all part of a kind of stamina test to prove to them that you were a good solid guy and someone worth doing business with.

You were also expected to sing as a part of this "initiation". One executive, who has spent a long time in Japan, said: "What you must never do is to say you are too

tired and wish to retire to your hotel. If you do that you can kiss your contract goodbye."

"The Japanese like torture. It is part of their culture. They believe that through suffering you achieve high rewards. I think they see it as character-building but I see it as a kind of wearing-down process. I have felt faint through lack of sleep, been embarrassed by having to sing in public, and been too tired to take in the proceedings of the following day."

"They make it their business to find out a great deal about you before you go to Japan, often employing detective agencies. They also have a very strong intelligence network through their shipping companies, banks and trading houses."

The Japanese are very demanding of those they do business with,

but they also demand a lot of themselves."

Question: What do the Japanese think of us? "They think we are rather funny with big noses, although the girls like us because we are 'different'. Many Japanese refer to *Henna-Gaijin* (crazy foreigners)."

Those about to enter this cultural minefield are warned never to sneeze or blow into a handkerchief in public, or call anyone a "Jap", and not to enter a "snack bar", if all they want is a cup of tea and a sandwich, as these are very expensive drinking places. Everyone is urged to cultivate a taste for raw, sometimes not quite dead, fish.

Further details from Michael Jenkins, director, Japan Business Consultancy, including a culture tape, Newton Park, Bath BA2 9BN (0225 874146).



"I'm sorry but they insist I don't do anything without them"

BRIEFING

Milton Keynes Business Venture, a local enterprise agency which has helped at least 1,000 would-be entrepreneurs and generated about 2,500 new jobs over the past five years, is planning a fresh series of initiatives, writes Derek Harris.

It has already tackled the need for small, inexpensive offices in the service-orientated new city, and established an industrial development centre to meet increasing demand for small industrial units. Now it is planning to provide purpose-built premises for businesses needing larger units and looking

at the possibility of launching a marketing centre to provide an advisory service. A more ambitious venture capital fund is planned to tap the advantages of the Business Expansion Scheme which offers tax incentives for private investors.

A modest but useful free guide to buying and selling small businesses is available from Shacklocks, a Nottingham-based commercial legal firm, and Christie & Co, Britain's largest business transfer agents. Write to: Shacklocks, 19-21 The Ropewalk, Nottingham NG1 5DU; tel. (0602) 410788.

Rapid way to finding life's goal

By Brian Collett

Several professional footballers, including John Scales, the Wimbledon full-back, and Luther Blissett, the Watford forward, have been among students signing up for a new home study course on starting a business offered by the Rapid Results College.

Scales decided on the course after walking into the college, which is in Wimbledon, south London, near his club ground, and finding the first information leaflets being put on display. He said:

"It looked ideal for me. I get quite a lot of free time as I only train in the mornings but I don't really want to have to attend regular classes, at night school, for example."

He has now done the course and has opened a sports shop in Harrogate, North Yorkshire.

Altogether more than 120 people are taking or have finished the course. The £159 cost includes all course material and a telephone counselling service. The programme, which was drawn up by the college with the Midland Bank

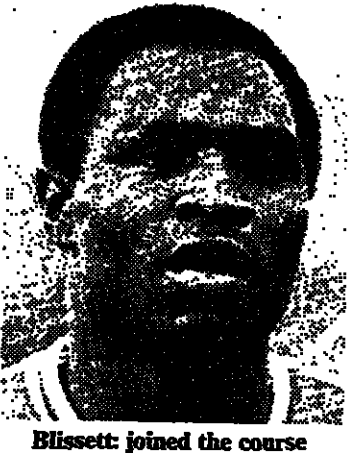
and the London Enterprise Agency, is intended to cover all aspects of starting up in business - raising the capital, marketing, selling and preparing a detailed business plan with guidance from a personal adviser.

The college recommends students to take six months to complete the programme and points out that only one in 10 businesses fails within three years if proper training is undergone.

● **Rapid Results College**, Tuiton House, 27-37 St George's Road, London SW19 4DS (01-947 7272).



Scales started a shop



Blissett joined the course

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RUGBY UNION: HUMILIATION IN NEW ZEALAND AND DISGRACE AGAINST ENGLISH CLUBS SHOW PARLOUS PROBLEMS FOR THE WELSH GAME

Abuse too much for referees to take

By Peter Bills

Personal abuse of referees at lower levels of Welsh rugby has become such a problem that some district matches are being played without an official in charge. Some junior referees have left the game because of the insults and there is a serious shortfall in recruitment.

"Like society, the game has changed and there is now a fair amount of dissent," Denzil Lloyd, chairman of the Welsh Rugby Union (WRU) referees committee, said. "People who referee for enjoyment will not accept the abuse coming from touchlines. It is absolutely frightening and there is no doubt it is getting worse."

The WRU has issued several warnings to clubs over the behaviour of spectators, but Lloyd said: "There is still a fair level of it. Friends in the districts tell me people have finished refereeing. It has not happened in great numbers but any loss of a referee is tragic because we need them so badly."

The supply of officials to the top level is not threatened at this stage because of the pyramid system. But David Jones, representative of the district clubs in Wales and chairman of the WRU disciplinary committee, believes the long-term picture is not good. He said: "We have a problem because we give 14-20 referees to the WRU every season for their top list. They represent our best referees, but it weakens our structure and means some of the lower type of games go without referees."

One official who did give up the game illustrated the problems. Michael Griffiths, secretary of the Aberystwyth District Referees' Society, still feels angry at his treatment.

He said: "It is nothing short of disgraceful what you have to put up with these days. What was once considered good-natured baiting of referees has now turned into actual verbal abuse. It only just stops short of physical abuse. You get threatening behaviour by some people in the crowd and jostling coming off the field. I suspended myself refereeing because of personal disillusionment with that behaviour. It was a culmination of several games and each one got progressively worse."

Griffiths has now returned to the game, but he confirms there is a growing problem with recruitment, something which the continuing deterioration in behaviour can only deepen.

Wales's lack of leadership means worst yet to come

By Gerald Davies

The resignation last week of Ray Williams, the secretary of the Welsh Rugby Union, is yet another example, if any more were needed on the lengthening debit side of the ledger, of the undignified and increasingly pathetic spectacle which Welsh rugby now presents to the world.

Whatever the arguments were between the two sides in this particular case, and however much the formal niceties were observed in the announcement, it nevertheless reinforces the view that the game in Wales is in disarray, lacking leadership, a sense of vision, or quite simply, downright common-sense. Apart from a handful of players who delight the eye and deserve a better platform for their talents, there are few redeeming features.

The clubs are at loggerheads with the Union on two fronts. Directorial evolution and are firmly against the WRU's league proposal. Second, after opposing the live televising of matches, which the WRU had approved with the BBC, the clubs are gradually retracting their positions (there is also an argument against televised games which has more to do with the doubtful quality of play rather than finance).

It is time that the Union and those administrators within the clubs, so attached to their complacent self-interest in an opposing camp, ought to start

mucking out the stables together.

Whatever anyone on either side thinks he has been up to, one must conclude that it is a long way off from improving the standard of rugby football.

It is worse now than ever it was. If the Welsh team returned from New Zealand in the summer humiliated, then the clubs will have been collectively disgraced last weekend when none had cause to celebrate in any of the eight matches played against clubs from England.

To quote the Bard, who knew a thing or two if not so much about rugby exactly: "The worst is not," he had one of his characters conclude when rather down on his luck, "so long as we can say this is the worst." So, in Welsh rugby, who nowadays can claim that this international performance or that club result is the worst when, as recent experiences have shown, the worst may yet be around another corner?

And as the playwright who penned those lines knew, the seed of the ruin is embedded in a flawed personality; a weakness is not recognized until it is too late, by which time it is on the path to destruction.

If the last decade is anything to go by, the flaw in Welsh rugby's personality is the inability or unwillingness to learn; or perhaps it prefers to turn a blind eye to the reality? This was crystallized when, after the World Cup last year,

it was the illusion of quality created by the third place position that was praised, when a dispassionate analysis of Welsh standards as set against All Black brilliance was required.

Yet again, after the summer's humiliation, it is a superficial reasoning that has come to play. Poor selection has automatically come in for criticism, although no one player or group of players would have made any significant difference.

Players lacked commitment, others said. Referees in the provincial matches were not quite up to it, others whinged. The All Blacks were thought to cheat a lot was another curious assessment. British referees, unlike their New Zealand counterparts, are soft in their interpretation of the rule. This conveniently ignores that with their World Cup matches and both of their recent Test series at home and in Australia, New Zealand have been exposed to referees from six different countries without ever being found wanting in that phase.

Players, then, moan about the better treatment the All Blacks are afforded. That they are, in Adrian Hadley's exact conclusion as he departed northwards, "virtually semi-professional", whatever that may mean.

In all this, what is not so freely admitted is that the All Blacks are patently better rugby players. Before Welsh rugby can get any better, it will

have to admit to that old fact and to find an answer why. It may be that they will have to recognize that New Zealand better understands the requirements of the game. They are, without taking the joy out of rugby, more disciplined — their coaches know the difference between individual and team preparation.

New Zealanders are, in consequence, fitter, faster, stronger, more agile and more skilful. There is a competitive structure they all understand.

Yet Welsh rugby still fails to stand back and assess. A sub-committee, for instance, went through the rigmarole of interviewing a short list of nine candidates for the post of national coach though it is clear that there are not that many men who are capable of the job. The sub-committee was seen, democratically, to be doing something.

Off the field, there has been a failure of man-management which has caused the players to become disenchanted. Players of world class have retired prematurely from international rugby. In June, Gareth Roberts, played a cat and mouse game with selection and finally, on being asked, he turned down the opportunity of playing for his country. How is it, it must be wondered, that a Welsh jersey should be thought to be so cheap? What further ignominy lies in wait, one shudders to ask, before the tide turns, if it ever does?



Adrian Hadley: a disillusioned player lost to Welsh game

BOXING

Collins in search for return path

By Srikumar Sen

Boxing Correspondent

Tom Collins, at the age of 33 and with 10 years' service behind him, may be an old soldier but he has no intention of fading away, even though he lost his European light-heavyweight title to Pedro Van Raamsdonk, of The Netherlands, at Reading on Wednesday.

He does not consider losing his title on a cut eye sufficient reason to retire. So after receiving nine stitches in the two-inch gash, which looked like someone sticking his tongue out, he told his manager, Trevor Callaghan, to find the best way back for him.

Callaghan said that he would be "exercising Collins's right to be regarded as the preferential challenger for the British title". Callaghan said that he had that assurance in writing from John Morris, the secretary of the British Boxing Board of Control, and would be contacting him soon about challenging the British champion, Tony Wilson.

Callaghan is also hoping that because Collins lost his title through the intervention of the doctor, he would still remain in the world rankings. "The fight was by no means over and Collins was coming back with those body shots that Raamsdonk clearly did not like," Callaghan said.

Raamsdonk looked impressive for a man with two years' professional experience and 11 bouts behind him. He certainly knew a lot more moves than his experience would suggest. Though 6ft 2in and skinny, he was always well balanced.

Collins could not get to him as standing upright, and using his reach advantage he kept picking up the points round after round. Raamsdonk, who should now take over Collins's No. 2 position in the world could go a long way within this division or in another one.

Gary Stretch, the St Helens southpaw, easily won the British light-middleweight title defeating the champion, Gary Cooper, of Lymington, on points, nine rounds to three. Stretch, a feisty model, certainly put on the style. He was all over Cooper, aged 30, from the first round and had not damaged his left hand in the fourth he might not have found himself in trouble in the later rounds.

Stretch was regarded by some as the best young British prospect but he left some doubts about his ability to take a punch as Cooper, a light puncher, hurt him with the right hand on two occasions.

Stretch learned yesterday that the hand is broken and he will be out of boxing for at least two months before considering his next move.

Ryan down to business

By Owen Jenkins

The leading players in Wales will meet at Swansea University today for a training weekend. More than 50 were invited, but with some not available for various reasons the figure will be nearer 40. It is the first opportunity that John Ryan has had to meet the players in his new role as Welsh coach.

"It's an important time for me," he said. "I'll be able to put over the standards I'm looking for from them and to establish a rapport and relationship between myself and the players — to see what I need from them and what they need from me."

Ryan will be assisted by Sian Addicot, director of physical education at Swansea University. The weekend will involve a two and a half hour session this afternoon, followed tomorrow morning by a fitness testing

session under the guidance of the former Olympic long jump gold medal winner, Lynn Davies, and the former Welsh international wing, JJ Williams.

Some players will turn out for their clubs tomorrow, but those remaining will have another coaching session. Davies and Williams will give a fitness demonstration on Sunday morning for the benefit of club coaches. Ryan and Addicot will take the final session.

Ryan said: "I'm looking forward to actually getting a track suit on and doing some practical. I think it's important that the players themselves have a voice in what goes on and I'll be listening to their ideas and experiences of those who went to New Zealand. Ultimately, though, any decisions will be mine."

Gibson out for month

By David Hands, Rugby Correspondent

Michael Gibson, Ireland's No. 8 all last season, will miss the first two rounds of the Courage Clubs Championship with an injury, which is virtually a repetition of one he suffered two years ago.

He has been forced out of the London Irish side to play Coventry at Sarnbury tomorrow with a cracked right thumb, sustained against Orrell, which will take a month to mend.

Hopes that Brian Spillane, another international, could take his place proved premature. Spillane suffered an eye injury against Northampton last season which was so serious that doubts were cast upon his playing again.

more games under his belt before playing a league match. He is more likely to return to the first XV against Terenure in Dublin next week. In the meantime, Miller, the player of the tour in Australia during August, joins the back row and the back division is recast, with both centres, Hewitt and Harbinson, returning from duty with Ulster.

Kearns, a former Harlow cod, makes his debut on the wing because Coogan has been called into the Ireland under-21 squad to prepare for the game against Italy later this month.

Leicester have dropped the lock, Smith, the hooker, Thacker, and the scrum-half, Kennedy, for their league match at home to Wasps tomorrow. Reid, Tressler and Youngs are recalled.

Tour success for Eton

Schools rugby by Michael Stevenson

Eton, not always noted for their prowess at rugby, enjoyed a very successful tour of Canada. They won all their six matches, five of which were against under-19 opposition.

For their first tour abroad, Eton took 26 players, of whom five were leavers who will not be available this winter. They found the opposition powerful but technically naive.

Trent College also had a 100 per cent success rate on their tour of Canada with a team which included only one player who will be available for the coming season. Trent are justifiably excited that they will be playing fixtures this winter against both Rugby and Oundle for the first time.

St John's Leatherhead toured The Netherlands and won their three matches by big margins, doing the simple things well and exploiting the tendency for the opposition to falter when it came to second phase play.

Cranleigh had mixed success on their tour of Canada and New Zealand and predictably found the going much more demanding in the latter. They took 24 players, of whom 12 are available for the coming campaign. Competition for the last three places will be keen. Cranleigh are looking forward to new fixtures against Eton and North.

There will be four new teams visiting Dowlas for their popular 15-a-side festival to be held at the school on Sunday. They are Colston's, Abingdon, Monmouth and St Bees.

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RACING: MTOTO CAN CAPTURE GOODWOOD'S SELECT STAKES AS PART OF HIS PREPARATION FOR NEXT MONTH'S PRIX DE L'ARC DE TRIOMPHE

Prince Of Dance to stress potential

Game Kneller helps Eddery reach 150-winner milestone

By Mandarini (Michael Phillips)

A glimpse of the star of today and a possible star of tomorrow is the order of the day at Goodwood and Doncaster this afternoon.

On parade are Mtoto, having his preparatory race for the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe in the Select Stakes on the Sussex track, and Prince Of Dance, attempting to further underline his classic credibility by winning the Laurent Perrier Champagne Stakes on Town Moor.

The management at Goodwood will doubtless be anxious to avoid a repetition of the fiasco that occurred there in the spring when

Mtoto last graced the course with his presence.

On that occasion the entire field went the wrong way because the course was incorrectly dolled off. As a result the race which Mtoto won was declared void.

In the meantime, the Alec Stewart trained five-year-old has achieved fame and fortune by winning the Eclipse Stakes at Sandown a second time and capturing the King George VI and Queen Elizabeth Diamond Stakes at Ascot.

To show that he means business today, Stewart has declared Tajriba to act as Mtoto's pacemaker. So we can rest assured that the race will be run at a proper gallop instead of a dawdle.

With Hibernian Gold and Love The Groom also standing their ground, the field is not short of ability either.

However, it will be something of a major shock if either managed to beat Mtoto even though his signs are basically set on the big French race in just over three weeks' time.

Sadly, the fields for the two main supporting races have shrivelled to three and two runners respectively. Both may well be won by horses ridden by Pat Eddery, who can go on to complete a treble by winning the final event on First Secretary (5.20).

Kalanski, my selection for the Country Lady Starmod Stakes, is a younger brother of the 1984 Dewhurst winner

Kala Dancer, who on his debut at Lingfield five weeks ago upset the odds laid on the impressive Sandown winner Shining Steel.

If Trakles is half the horse they have always maintained he is at Pulborough, he ought to be capable of taking care of Sweet Chesne, at a difference of 2lb, in the Country Gentlemen's Association Stakes.

By the time that he goes to post, Pure Genius, his regular work companion on Newmarket Heath, should have drawn further attention to his classic prospects by winning the Laurent Perrier Rose Champagne Graduation Stakes at Doncaster which his trainer, Michael Stoute, won

last year with Rimsh and the year before that with Ajdal.

On this occasion, Pure Genius, who impressed so greatly at Yarmouth three weeks ago, is napped to trigger off a double for his jockey Walter Swinburn, which should be completed at the end of the programme by Opale's promising young half-sister Emeraldale in the Sun Princess Stakes.

As far as the feature race at Doncaster is concerned, it will be bitterly disappointing if Prince Of Dance (3.40) fails to reinforce the excellent impression that he created at Newbury last month and compensate his connections for being disqualified on technical grounds.

Haydock before finishing second at Epsom. "He was unlucky at Epsom," said John Dunlop.

The only disaster for backers came when Raslaan, favourite at 13-8 to win the Mallard Handicap after finishing second to Kneller at York, could only take a false-finishing fourth place behind 14-1 chance Rodchenko.

The favourite had appeared to encounter bad luck in running, but Ray Cochrane said: "Raslaan needs to be held up and the race wasn't run to suit him."

After an exciting race, Rodchenko beat Dastur by half a length with Tailspin finishing three-quarters of a length away in third place. Both the winner and the third home were trained by Barry Hills.

After the race Ernie Johnson, Tailspin's jockey, lodged an objection to Robert Dastur for having struck his mount over the head with his whip. After viewing the film, the stewards ordered Johnson to forfeit his £40 deposit, as they considered that Dastur had "veered towards" Robert, rather than the reverse.

Hills has no firm plans for the winner, who gave St George a double and said that the three-year-old is entered in the Cesarewitch. The trainer also had news of Glacial Storm, who disappointed when only second to Percy's Lass at Kempton last Friday.

"We've been popping him over hurdles. We're now going to try him in blinkers, and if he works well in them we could still go for the Arc."

Lucia Cumani, the favourite's trainer, was not at Doncaster but said on the telephone at Newmarket that Kalyshi, the dual Derby winner, is to be re-trained from Goodwood this afternoon to the Prix Niel at Longchamp on Sunday. "His run in Paris was on the ground isn't soft," he said.

Otherwise, we'll wait for the Cumberland Lodge Stakes at Ascot."

Wednesday's Portland Handicap, a 1000 Guineas, is likely to miss the Ayr Gold Cup on Friday week.

Ladbrokes made Roman Prince 6-1 second favourite for their big handicap after he had beaten Glaciar at Doncaster, but yesterday's trainer Gerald Coddie, who has had a bad start during the afternoon and the punters had started the ball



Barry Hills: saddled 14-1 winner Rodchenko rolling when making Casbatina favourite at 2-1 for the Devonshire Selling Stakes.

The two-year-old's victory landed a substantial gamble as Jeff Pearce's previously untraced two-year-old had been marked up on the boards at 25-1. The bulk of the money was invested at all odds from 10-1 down to the starting price.

Pearce, now in his second season to hold a Flat licence, broke his neck in a fall at Southwell seven years ago. During this spell as a jockey he rode the subsequent Cheltenham Gold Cup runner-up Captain John to five victories.

Yesterday's coup certainly gave the trainer consolation for having lost Rotherfield Greys to Chris Wall prior to the five-year-old's victory. The Stewards Cup at Goodwood.

Backers continued to make hay when Eddery had the first leg of a double, riding Prince Ibrahim to a 1½-length victory over Cook's Gorse in the Holston Nursery.

Prince Ibrahim had appeared well handicapped after beating yesterday's May Hill Stakes runner-up, Rosea Tern, at

Glencroft, a well-backed favourite for the Portland, is now 9-2 favourite with Ladbrokes for the Ayr race. Other prices: 10-1 Coral Handicap, 12-1 Cheltenham Cup, 16-1 Master Pokey, Perfect Timing, 16-1 bar.

She said: "His signs are slightly more after Doncaster and he is very good. He will probably miss the race."

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Racecard number. Draw in brackets. Stipules last race. P - pulled up. U - unsound. R - retired. S - soft. G - soft to heavy. W - won. L - lost. D - disqualified. H - horse's name. Days since last race. J - jockey. C - course. W - winner. D - distance. CO - course. S - sex. F - female. M - male. N - non-runner. B - beaten. B.F. - beaten favourite in last race. G - going. G.O. - good. G.P. - good. G.S. - good. G.T. - good. G.V. - good. G.W. - good. G.X. - good. G.Y. - good. G.Z. - good. G.A. - good. G.B. - good. G.C. - good. G.D. - good. G.E. - good. G.F. - good. G.G. - good. G.H. - good. G.I. - good. G.J. - good. G.K. - good. G.L. - good. G.M. - good. G.N. - good. G.O. - good. G.P. - good. G.Q. - good. G.R. - good. G.S. - good. G.T. - good. G.U. - good. G.V. - good. G.W. - good. G.X. - good. G.Y. - good. G.Z. - good. G.A. - good. G.B. - good. G.C. - good. G.D. - good. G.E. - good. G.F. - good. G.G. - good. G.H. - good. G.I. - good. G.J. - good. G.K. - good. G.L. - good. G.M. - good. 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